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THE SIMPSONS' UNIVERSE!



STARTLING EXPOSE! THE TERRIBLE TRUTH ABOUT GOLDILOCKS!



BACKSTAGE EXCLUSIVE! AN INTERVIEW WITH TOP SIMPSON ANIMATORS!

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MATT GROENING

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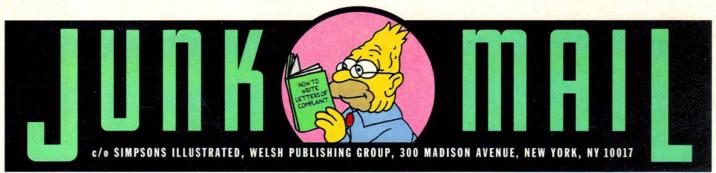
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NEW GREEN ???? S.





We want your mail. No, not your unpaid bills. We want you to fill this page every issue. So let us know what you liked, and what you didn't, in this, our premiere issue. If you have any big ideas, let us hear them. We're going to keep at it until everybody is happy! We'll even take a look at your artwork, poems (now that's really special!) and practically anything else you send us. The possibilities are endless. So write!

FARM FROLICS

Dear Editor,

Enclosed please find several shots of the official Bart Simpson scarecrow, winner of First Place and Best of Show at the Sonoma-Marin Fair in Petaluma, California, June 1990. I built the scarecrow after the bright idea hit

David Peters Irvine, CA

me that Bart Simpson was the man of the hour and would appeal to fairgoers of every age. The rules state that the scarecrows have to be constructed of traditional scarecrow materials (straw, old clothes, things lying around the farm) and they have to aim to scare crows. It followed that Bart's hair could be a straw broom, as that is what it looks like anyway. And those eyeballs (in this case, L'eggs stocking containers) are weird and scary, and the slingshot bodes badly for the birds. Bart always has to write something a hundred times on the blackboard in the beginning of every episode (we hate it if we miss the beginning and don't see what he has to write this time), so it followed that he could get his message across with chalk, man.

Good luck in this new Simpsons Illustrated magazine endeavor.

-Perry Walker Freeman Petaluma, CA

UNCARVED BLOCKHEADS

Dear Editor.

This letter is in appreciation of last Thursday's Simpsons episode. I was delighted at the mention of the Tao Te Ching by Lao Tzu. The last place I would expect to hear a reference to Taoism would be in a cartoon. I am currently taking a class on Taoism at California State University of Northridge. The show was all we could talk about before class.

I was glad it was Lisa who knew

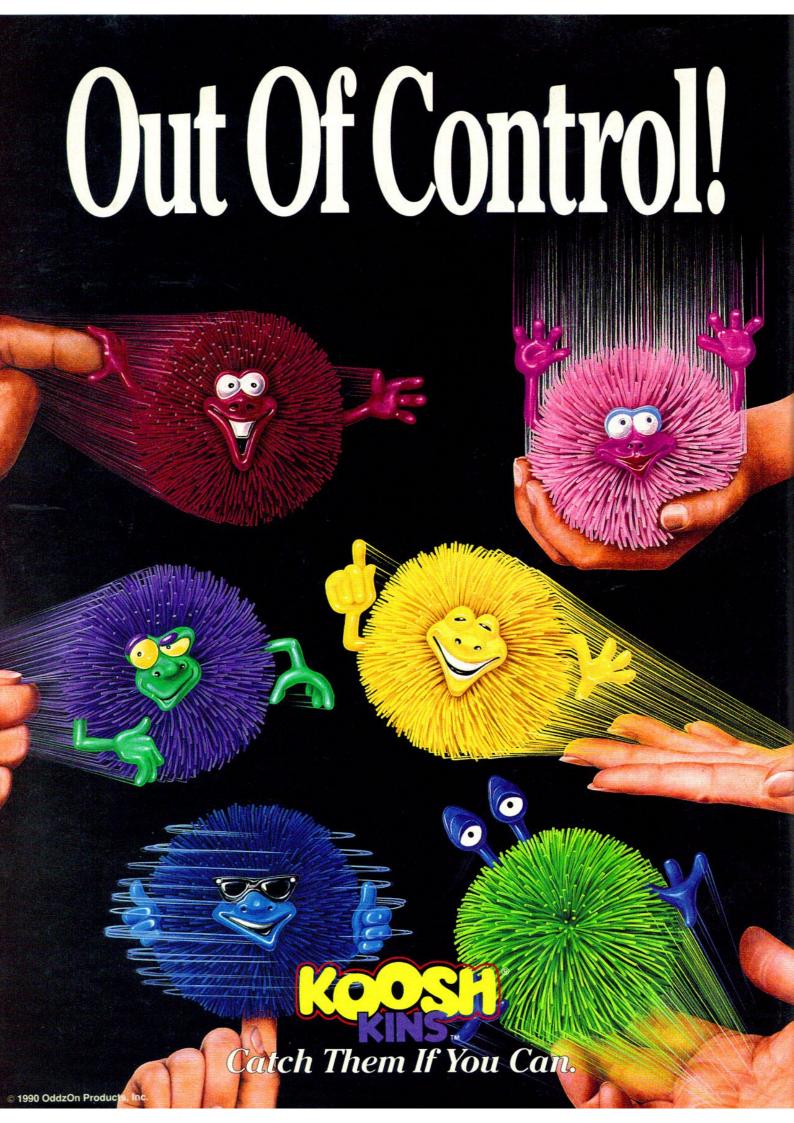


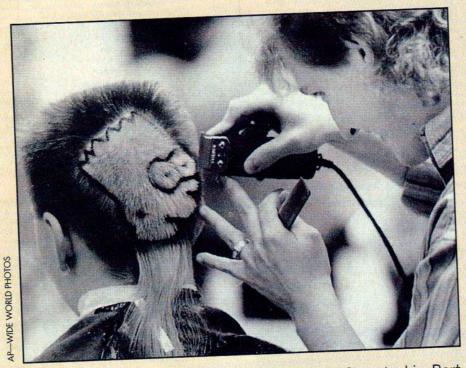
Perry Walker Freemen, Petaluma, CA

about the Tao Te Ching since she is the character I identify with most. I have to correct Lisa, though: the "Uncarved Block" is wood, not stone. If it was stone it would be the "unchiseled block."

Maybe the reference will get some young viewers interested in Taoism. I would recommend the Tao of Pooh by Benjamin Hoff to any young person, even Bart. It explains the basics of Taoism through another cartoon character: Pooh.

-Nicole Muraoka Northridge, CA





DON'T HAVE A COW, MOM: Jerry Field, 19, gets his Bart Simpson cut shaped by Bob Greguras at Elmo's Hair Design and Barber Shop in Ketchikan, Alaska. The cut is outlined every three days and trimmed and bleached every two weeks.

DO YOU THINK THEY WATCH ALL OF SEAN'S FILMS AT PENN STATE?

You're not going to believe this, but at **Simpson College** in Indianola, Iowa, they watch *The Simpsons*.

Just to prove it, the student newspaper assigned staff writer Ann Wagner the task of measuring students' views of the show.

Sean Grant said Bart was his favorite character, adding: "He's just a real-life kid. He's not like one of those Wally Cleaver kids."

Joelle Selk said: "They have sick humor and I love that."

And Robin Hinshaw said: "One time I had my Simpson College coat on and someone asked me if it was a real college or a take-off from the show."

Well, which is it?
—The Simpsonian

HEY, DOC — YOU ANY RELA-TION TO HOMER SIMPSON DOWN AT THE NUKE PLANT?

You probably saw this in "The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists," but **Dr. John Simpson** wrote in a recent issue: "The fragmentation of the Soviet Union may confront the world with

a new problem: ensuring that none of the new states which could emerge possess nuclear weapons and that they will rapidly join the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty."

Sorry man, we're not confronting any new problems until sometime in November.

MAYBE A DIFFERENT HAIRCUT WOULD HAVE HELPED

Bart Simpson of San Antonio, Texas, is a political underachiever.

Running as a Republican candidate for the Texas State legislature in heavily Democratic Bexar County, Simpson was creamed by Leticia Van de Putte, 71 percent to 25 percent. Hey, at least he beat the Libertarian candidate.

Despite his pathetic showing, Bart took the best verbal shot of the campaign when someone asked him if his name would help him get votes.

He said: "It may be worth a few extra votes, and it may not. After all, my opponent's name is not so great either."

Now, that's the Bart Simpson we

-People; San Antonio Express-News

ART IMITATES DEATH

Lt. Don Bartling (Bartling!) was one of four Fort Lauderdale, Fla. fire

OR LONG ENOUGH TO WATCH YOUR FAVORITE EPISODE OF THE SIMPSONS 438,000,000 TIMES

According to recent reports, the town of Pripyat, near the sight of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, will be uninhabitable for 25,000 years. That's roughly as long as humans have lived in North America.

SPRING 1991 SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED 5

fighters called to the Mercedes City Center in January to revive a woman in the lobby of the Museum of Art.

Bartling said: "We got down there and the security guard showed us where she was, right inside the window."

What they saw was a gray-haired woman with glasses, wearing a pink beach hat, pink T-shirt, pink and black shorts and white tennis shoes. She was sitting in a black metal chair, reading a magazine. Some books were scattered at her feet.

Bartling said: "After a while, we could see that she wasn't breathing."

It was about this time they realized they were staring at an exhibit by superrealist sculptor Duane Hanson. -Associated Press

BOOK 'EM, BARTO!

Since January 7, they've been sleeping soundly in California's Yolo —Davis Enterprise; Bart Simpson

County, near Sacramento.

That's the day Bart Simpson became the new undersheriff.

And not a heartbeat too soon, after they'd thrown the former sheriff and undersheriff in jail for taking a \$3,000 bribe to fudge on crime statistics so that a developer could get permission for a big project in the area.

Simpson served in the Sheriff's Department from 1972-87, as a jail supervisor, patrol sergeant and investigations sergeant.

Reached by us just before he was sworn in, a determined Bart said: "If they think the cartoon dork Bart Simpson is coming in here and they laugh, that's one thing. But the folks here have been laughed at enough. We want to begin this sheriff's administration on a good note."

Okay, but watch who you call a dork, man!



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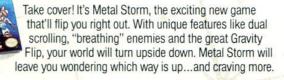
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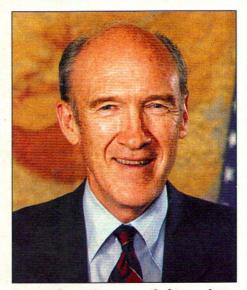
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Sen. Alan Simpson (left) and Homer Simpson: separated at birth?

MR. SIMPSON **GOES TO WASHINGTON**

How do you figure the most Homer-looking guy in the United States Senate, Alan Simpson (R. Wyoming)?

Does the ranking member of the Senate Subcommittee on Nuclear Regulation watch The Simpsons? Noooo. Some lame excuse about votes to cast, arms to twist. Gotta meet the press, gotta tape Nightline, gotta go on MacNeil-Lehrer.

It took Senator Ted Kennedy (D. Massachusetts) to remind Simpson of his family ties.

At a roast for Simpson in Wyoming, Kennedy said in a videotaped greeting: "Uh, Homer...I mean, Al...recently there was a TV show, The Kennedys of Massachusetts. Maybe someday they'll make "The Simpsons of Wyoming."

Then, taking off his jacket to reveal a Bart sweatshirt, Kennedy said: "But Al, the Simpsons do have their own show...."

—Sen. Simpson's staff

HEY JUICE, WHY NOT LAY THE BLAME ON THE DOORSTEP OF A REPRESSIVE, OVERLY-JUDGMENTAL EDUCATIONAL **ENVIRONMENT?**

Long before Bart, there was O.J. Simpson, the Pro Football Hall of \(\frac{1}{2} \) up to first lady

Fame running back who's now an actor and an NBC-TV commentator on NFL games.

The Juice on Bart: "I totally enjoy the show," says O.J. "Especially the part at the beginning where Bart has to write on the blackboard."

So, Juice, are you saying you can relate to the little guy?

"Oh, yeah. My mother had to come to school more than once. In

fact, when I was about Bart's age I had my share of suspensions."

—O.J. Simpson

JUST WAIT TIL THE DUFF BEER POLL, MAN

What do Bart Simpson, President Bush, Ivana Trump, Donald Trump, Madonna, Pope John Paul II, Andrew Dice Clay, Tom Cruise, Mother Teresa and Woody Allen have in common?

None of them could measure Barbara Bush, the winner of last November's J&B Scotch "Over Dinner Poll," which asked 1,000 Americans to name their top three dining compan-

If it's any consolation, the little dude who's crude when he shovels his food scored highest among the also-rans.

Maybe next November, Bart. J&B Scotch

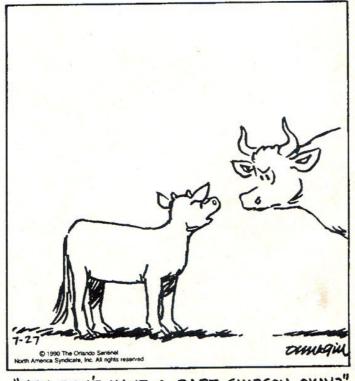
WATCH FOR IT ON YOUR CAFETERIA MENU

The ingredients of sliced head cheese: pork tongues, pork snouts, water, salt, gelatin, flavorings, sugar, sodium phosphates, sodium erythorbate, sodium nitrate.

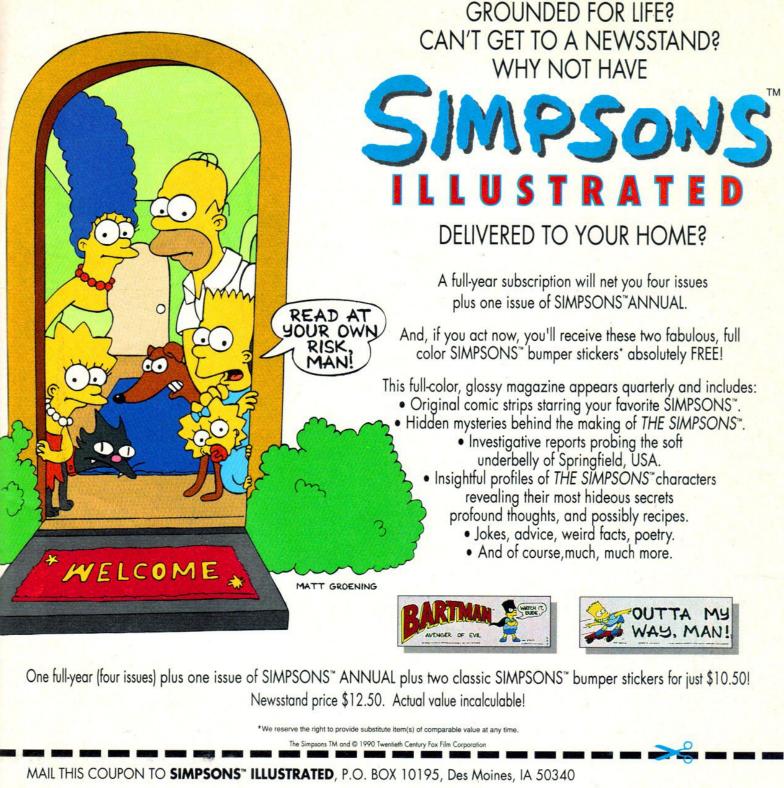
HAVE A COW, MAN!

According to Montana Agricultural Statistics, this year started off with 2.5 million head of cattle in the state. The state's human population lags behind at 805,000 says the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

DUNAGIN'S PEOPLE



"HEY, DON'T HAVE A BART SIMPSON, OKAY?"

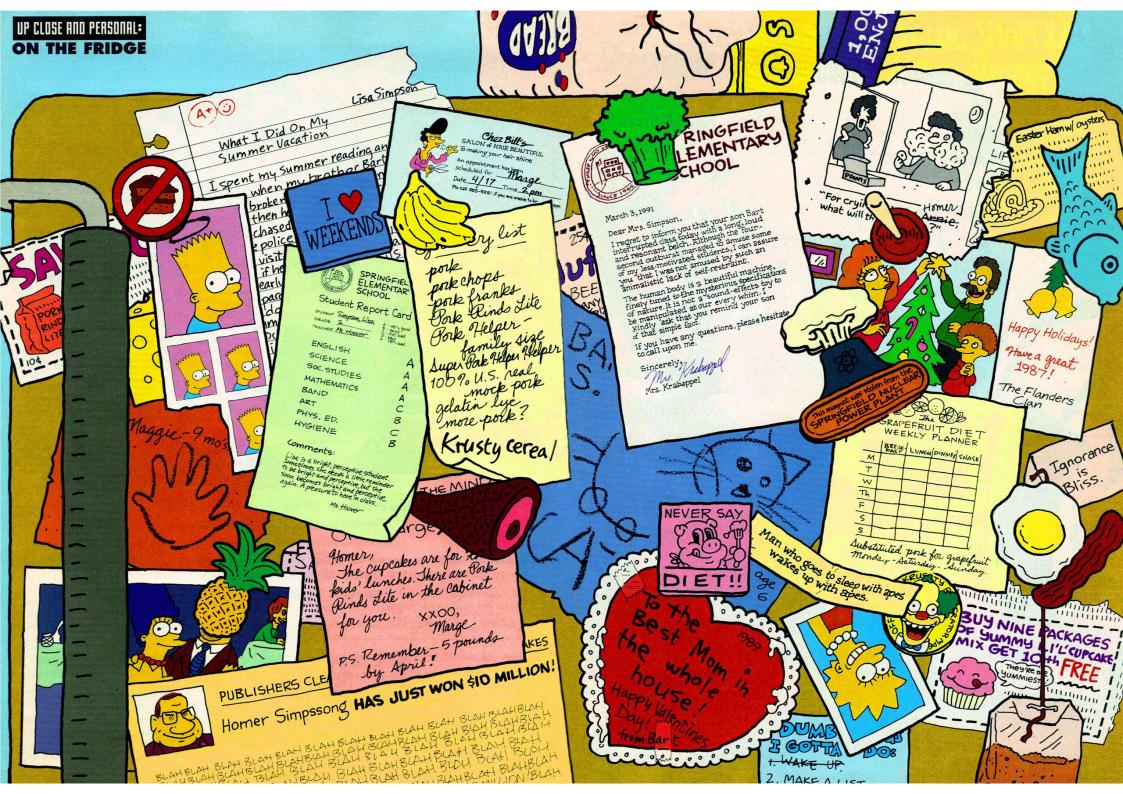


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1. The Simpsons first appeared on...

- A. The Liv Ullman Show
- B. The Tracey Ullman Show
- C. The Trace That Almond Show
 - D. Meet The Press

2. If spelled out, Homer's typical annoyed grunt would be...

- A. D'oh!
- B. Gleeeeeeep!
- C. Nagada-nagada-nagada!
- D. Yabbadabbadoo!

3. Marge's older twin sisters are named...

A. Big Bertha and Little Bertha

B. Big Bertha and Bigger Bertha

C. Patty and Selma

D. Betty and Veronica

4. Bart's hero is...

A. Krusty the Clown

B. Curly Howard of the Three Stooges

C. Himself

D. Ted Koppel

5.Lisa's saxophone-playing mentor is...

- A. "Warts" Mulrooney
- B. "Post Nasal Drip"

O'Toole

C. "Bleeding Gums" Murphy

D. "Eczema" Jones

6. Maggie wouldn't be Maggie without her...

- A. Security blanket
 - B. Pacifier
 - C. Teddy bear
- D. Copy of Susan Sontag's book Against Interpretation

7. Principal Skinner's childhood nickname was...

- A. Stinky
- B. Spanky
- C. Sprinkles
- D. Mulehead

8. Marge's bowling ball was named...

- A. Mr. Bowling Ball
- B. Globe of Fury
- C. Homer
- D. Snowball III

9. What catch phrase is Krusty the Clown least likely to use?

A. "Buy my cereal!"

B. "Don't blame me! I didn't do it!"

C. "Who do you love?"

D. "I'd like to recite one of my favorite love poems by Tennyson."

10. Krusty the Clown's proliteracy slogan is...

A. Give a hoot! Read a book!

B. I plead for you to read, indeed!

C. Books: They're not as boring as you think!

D. Shut up and read, kids!

11. Who was driving the car that ran over Bart?

- A. Otto the bus driver
- B. Lisa
- C. Mr. Burns
- D. Bill Cosby

12. Bart's teacher is named...

- A. Ms. Snarlberry
- B. Ms. Screamanyell
- C. Ms. Krabappel
- D. Ms. Nice

13. Homer's middle initial is...

A. Q.

B. Z.

C.F.

D. J.

14. Bart's full name is...

A. Bartholomew Jebediah Simpson

B. Bartholomew Jo-Jo Simpson

C. Bartholomew Jinx Simpson

> D. Bartholomew Jumbo Simpson

15. Lisa enjoys the pint-size cartoon characters known as...

A. The Happy Little

Elves

B. The Delirious

Little Pixies

- C. The Ecstatic Little Gnomes
- D. The Irresponsible Little Imps

16. Bart enjoys the violent animated antics of...

- A. Goofus and Gallant
- B. Creepy and Crawly
- C. Itchy and Scratchy
- D. Chewy and Swallowy

17. According to Herman, the military antiques dealer, he lost his arm...

- A. When he stuck it out the schoolbus window
- B. When he stuck it in the ball return chute at Barney's Bowl-a-Rama
- C. When he tried to retrieve his golfball from inside the windmill at Sir Putt-a-Lot's Miniature Golf Course
- D. When he shook the sleeping gator at the Springfield Gator Farm

18. When the Simpsons went to Dr. Marvin Monroe for family therapy, he had them hit each other with...

- A. Wet noodles
- B. Dry noodles
- C. Patented therapeutic foam-covered aggression mallets
 - D. Ball peen hammers

Continued on p. 36

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19. The name of the local baseball team is...

- A. The Springfield Isotopes
- B. The Springfield Meltdowns
- C. The Springfield Molten Fuel Rods
- D. The Springfield Patty Melts

20. What did Bart catch at the Ol' Fishin' Hole?

- A. A radioactive boot
- B. A three-eved fish
- C. A five-eyed frog
- D. A communicable disease

21. What is Marge's full first name?

- A. Marjorie
- B. Marjorita
- C. Marjolani
- D. Margarine

22. Who is the mayor of Springfield?

- A. Jebediah Springfield
- B. Diamond Joe Quimby
- C. Snowball II
- D. "Bleeding Gums" Murphy

23. Which video arcade game does Bart play?

- A. Escape from Grandma's House
 - B. Let's Shoot Everybody
- C. The Happy Little Elves Play Friendly

24. Bart's favorite

D. Quarter Eater

A. Frosty
Krusty

Flakes
B. Tasty
Toasty Flakes

C. Dusty Zesty Flakes

D. Nasty Musty Flakes

25. What does Bart spray paint all over town?

- A. El Barto
- B. The Cute Li'l Vandal Was Here
- C. I Scoff at Your Petty Bourgeois
 - D. #&\$%@!!!

26. In the opening credits of the show, what magazine is Marge reading in the grocery store?

A. Mom Monthly

B. Semi-Good Housekeeping

C. Hunk o' the Month Magazine

D. Freakish Hairdos Illustrated

27. Sideshow Bob's replacement on the "Krusty the

Clown Show" is...

- A. Sideshow Homer
- B. Sideshow Mel
- C. Sideshow Smithers
- D. Sideshow Bob Jr.

28. Who did Maggie make friends with when the Simpsons got lost in the woods?

- A. Wild bears
- B. Wild boars
- C. Wild bees
- D. Wild weasels

29. What did Maggie do to Homer after she

watched some Itchy and Scratchy

cartoons?

A. She hit him on the head with a mallet

B. She painted a picture of a

tunnel on a big rock and had Homer run into it

C. She dropped an anvil on his head

D. She mowed him down with a machine

30. What is the name of the clerk at the Kwik-

A. Apu

B. Popo

C. Peppy D. Alpo

31. Which of the following phony names has Bart not used when making prank phone calls to Moe's

Tavern?

- A. Al Coholic
- B. Mike Rotch
- C. Seymour Butz
- D. Isabelle Ringing

32. What comic book does Bart enjoy most?

- A. Captain Eel
- B. Bulbous Boy
 - C. Radioactive Man
 - D. Larva Girl

33. What happened to Snowball !?

A. She was run over by a car

B. She disappeared down the ball return chute at Barney's Bowl-a-Rama

C. She disappeared inside the windmill at Sir Putt-a-Lot's Miniature Golf Course

D. She got her own Saturday morning spin-off cartoon show

34. How many hairs does Homer have on the top of his head?

- A. 7
- B. 13
- C. 2
- D. 0

35. Which magazine have the Simpsons not been on the cover of?

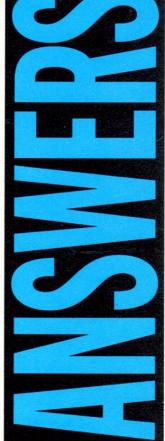
- A. Time
- B. Newsweek
- C. TV Guide
- D. Vogue

36. The name of the first Simpsons album is...

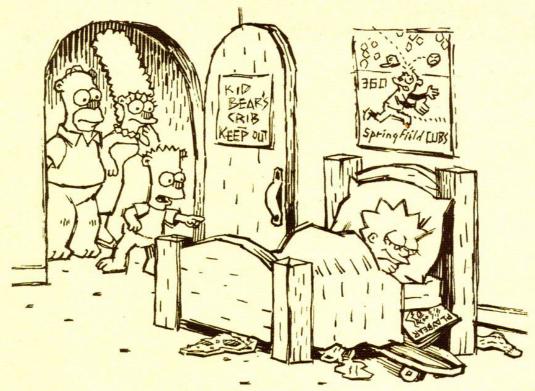
- A. The Simpsons Sing Gospel Favorites
- B. The Simpsons Sing the Blues
- C. The Simpsons Sing Fraternity Drinking Songs
- D. The Simpsons Go Surfadelic Freakout, Man

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1-B, 2-A, 3-C, 4-A, 5-C, 23-B, 22-B, 23-A, 33-C, 23-A, 30-A, 23-A, 23-A,



Ideals



kid's is just right. At least if you pour enough maple syrup on it.

Soon, staggering under the weight of a tummyful of boiled oats and the beginning of a major sugar buzz, Goldilocks stumbles into the Bears' living room. There she finds-you guessed it—three chairs: a big huge one, a medium-size one and a little itty-bitty one. You kids really dig this repetition stuff, don't you? Anyway, Goldilocks

Anyway, Goldilocks tries the big one and it's too hard. The medium-

size one is too soft (like that's a problem or something). Of course, the Kid Bear's chair is—all together now—just right.

But what Goldilocks doesn't realize is that this chair has been booby-trapped by the Kid Bear to prevent its use by obnoxious home-invaders. When Goldilocks goes to sit on it, it immediately emits a loud, embarrassing sound. She's been whoopee-cushioned!

Totally mortified, Goldilocks heads up the stairs to the Bears' bedroom where blah blah three beds, blah blah too hard, too soft blah blah, and the Kid's bed is just right. She climbs into that one and passes out.

Okay, now here's where it gets good.

The Three Bears return from doing whatever it is that bears do in the woods. They immediately suspect foul play.

"Someone's been eating my porridge!" roars the Papa Bear. "What sort of world is this where a bear can't go out for his morning constitutional without returning home to find his breakfast defiled!"

And then the Mama Bear wails, "Oh, dear! Someone's been eating my porridge, too!"

And then the Kid Bear shouts, "Somebody's been eating my porridge, and they ate it all up! Hallelujah, Mama!"

And then they go into the next room where the chairs are and ...

Well, let's cut to the chase, all right?

They go upstairs and the Papa Bear says, "Somebody's been sleeping in my bed!" And the Mama Bear says ditto blah blah. And then the Kid Bear looks at his bed and what does he see there but this dumb girl—sleeping like a fool in some bears' house!

And so the Kid Bear exclaims, "Hey, look, man—breakfast in bed!" Goldilocks wakes up just then, but her pitiful cries go unheeded.

The Three Bears eat her on the spot, and she's just right.

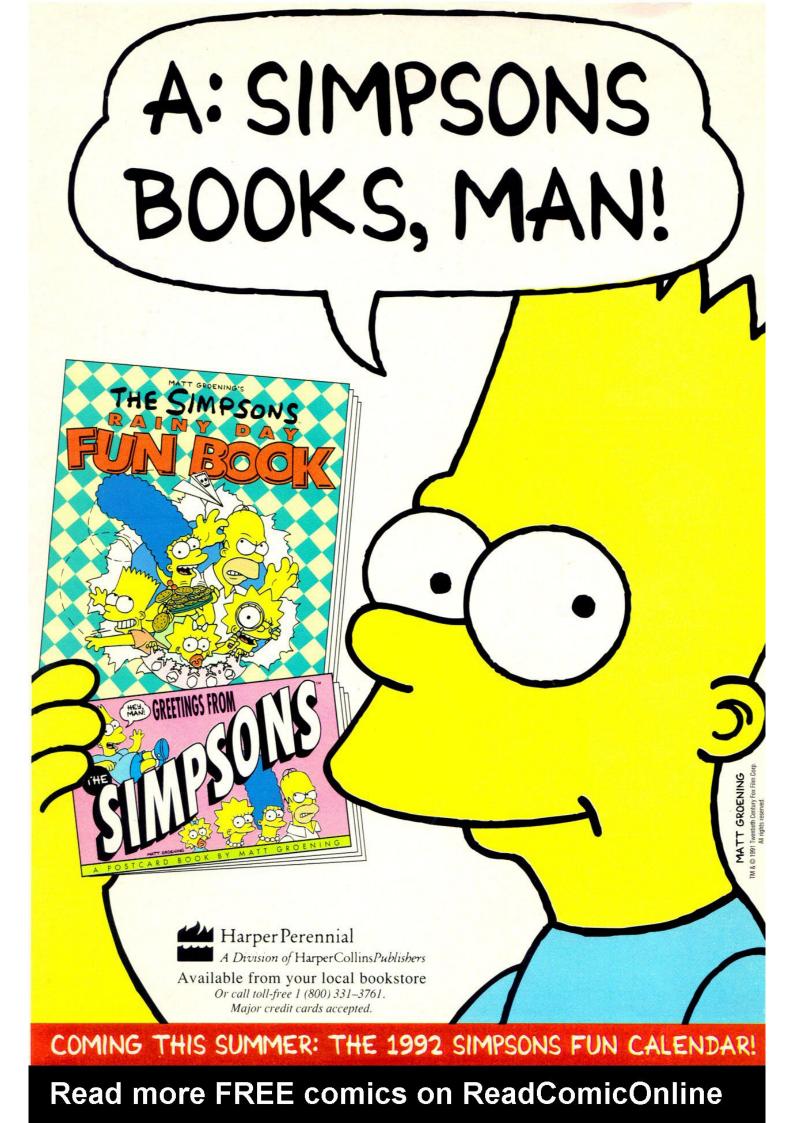
Don't cry, Maggie. It's just a story. It didn't really happen. It's not a docudrama, man. Please don't cry, Maggie. I'm sorry I told you this story. I really am. You've got to stop crying... please, Maggie, please. Maggie, if you don't stop crying, I'll tell you another bedtime story.

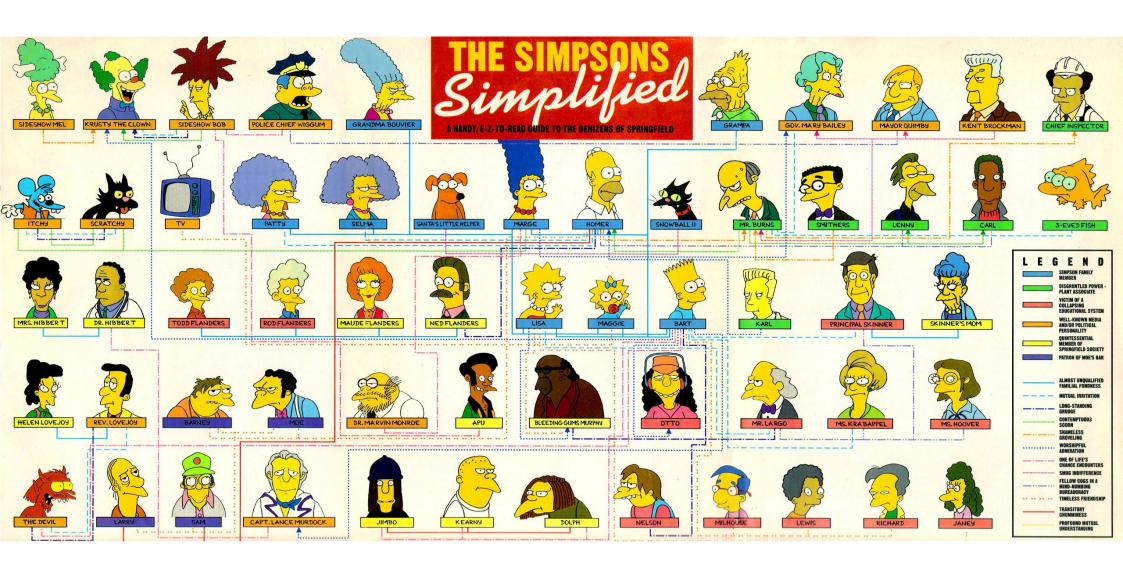
That's better, Maggie.

THE END

Q: WHAT'S YELLOW AND READ ALL OVER?

Many





INSIDERS REVEAL THE SECRET TO SIMPSONS' SUCCESS: "THE SECRET TO SIMPSONS' SUCCESS' SUCCESS' SUCCESS' SUCCESS' SUCCESS' S

You've now reached the part of Simpsons Illustrated that really sets it apart from any other magazine. Get ready to go Behind the Scenes. We'll take you where no other magazine can or will go. Why? Because we won't let them! We're going to give you the inside scoop on all things 'Simpson' as only we can.

In this first Behind the Scenes, we're ripping the lid off the animation process that brings the Simpsons to life. It takes over six months, 100 people and 16,000 drawings to create a new half-hour in the lives of the Simpsons. Among the show's creators are artists who spend all their time making the characters move or drawing the story's settings or painting the finished pictures.

Designing new characters is one of the most important parts of making the show happen, and that's where directors David Silverman and Wes Archer come in. Whenever a new character appears, these guys snap into action, figuring out what he or she will look like from the back, front, top or bottom. They decide which expressions would be appropriate for a character and

An Interview with Animation Directors David Silverman and Wes Archer



Wes and friend.



David deepens his dimples.

which would look out of place. They also oversee the show's pacing and make sure the storyboards are telling the story each week properly, often rolling up their sleeves and drawing layouts, and storyboards themselves.

We caught up with David and Wes in the Los Angeles offices of Klasky-Csupo Animation, where The Simpsons is put together.

Simpsons Illustrated: *Do you guys walk, talk and breathe* The Simpsons?

DAVID (In a Homer laugh): Hehheh-heh. Seriously, it's a really tough job, but really fun. We call it "The Art of Bart."

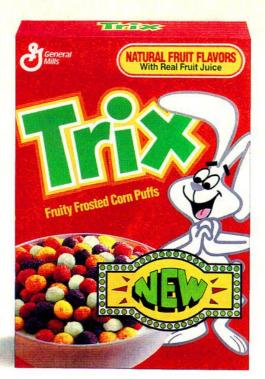
S: What's your approach to drawing The Simpsons?

DAVID: Wes and I like to keep the drawing simple and clear. Animation should never be the star of the story. Good animation *tells* a story. It shouldn't say "Look how great these drawings are!"

WES: Clear picture composition is really important.

S: How have the characters changed since the show's early days?

DAVID: Bart used to be a total egghead. His first line ever was,



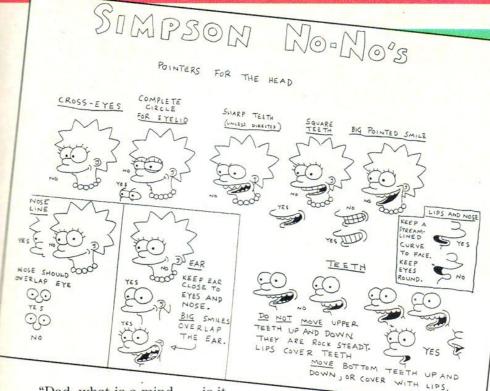
ORANGY ORANGE
GRAPITY PURPLE
RASPBERRY RED
L___ G___ ?

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BEHIND THE SCENES



"Dad, what is a mind... is it a series of impulses, or is it something more tangible?" As he developed, Bart became more mischievous.

S: How has he changed visually? **DAVID:** We used to have a war over how many spikes of hair he'd have. First it was 13, then Wes drew seven.

WES: So we compromised on nine or ten. Lisa used to have a billion points on her head and her skirt.

S: Marge's hair is the real phenomenon.

DAVID: When we were first drawing Marge, we kept making her hair taller and taller because it was such a riot having it bounce against doorways. Then it got a little out of control and we cut it down to the tame beehive it is today.

S: I've heard Homer was first modeled after Walter Matthau.

DAVID:

He was, in that scruffy-faced, bulbous kind of way. But really, Homer is like an older version of Bart, visually and character-wise. The funny thing is, he's supposed to be setting an example for Bart, but he always says stuff like, (in his Homer voice) "Son, being popular is the most important thing in the world."

WES: Homer used to be thinner

"Bart's first line ever was, 'Dad, what is a mind . . . is it a series of impulses, or is it something more tangible?"

How Not to Draw The
Simpsons: Model sheets, like
the one shown on the left for
Lisa, drawn by Wes Archer in
1989, show animators what to
avoid when drawing the
Simpsons. Everything is spelled
out for the artists—like, the
Simpsons never have sharp or
square teeth and never, ever
cross their eyes.

but we added a paunch. We simplified his head to more of a Charlie Brown style, but he's always had those croquet hooks for hair.

DAVID: [Simpson's creator] Matt [Groening]'s style was sort of flat, because his medium was different. We had to give dimensionality and movement to the characters. The characters are pretty geometric—like Homer's Ping-Pong ball eyes.

WES: More like softball eyes.

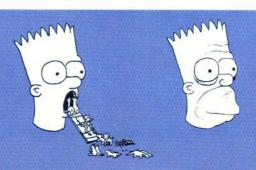
S: How do you translate character personalities into design?

DAVID: Our goal was to develop a style of animation, of motion, that conveyed Matt's sense of the bizarre—the quirkiness of his characters. His style really goes against the norm. The Simpsons are hyper and impulsive, so we made the animation follow that.

S: How so?

DAVID: When they move, their arms flail around. Their mouths are all over the place. There are at least 12 to 15 drawings for every expression.

Bart, Is That You?: The basic blank-mouthed Bart portrait undergoes strange transformations at the hands of various animators.





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3. Use your grappling hook to clamber up vertical walls, while fierce guards attack without mercy



4. On the top of a building, climb rickety scaffolding to build your stamina. Also collect a mechanical attack



5. Collect two drones and then you get the white mechanical panther to help in your assault, as he leaps at



6. Mad wolves lunge at you from deep in the arctic wastes. Here you can get a friendly droid to help you battle the



7. In the midst of angled scaffolding, mechanized defenders rock on ball bearings as they try to blast you into atoms.



8. Within the forest you fling yourself onto swinging vines and meet Amazon women. Don't fall-deadly piranha fish infest the waters below



9. Automatic cannon fire assaults you aboard the fleet cruiser of the evil empire. Soon you'll face its largest cannon-it's awesome



such mechanical minions of death, before you reach the inner sanctum of Number One

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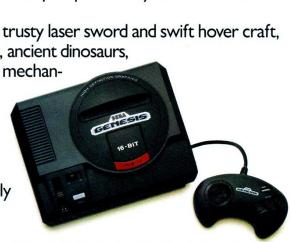
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pirates, mad dogs, monkey-like mechanical robots and finally the evil mastermind in his mechanoskeletal headquarters.

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BEHIND THE SCENES

S: Why aren't the Simpsons flesh-toned?

WES: The color stylist decided one day that Bart should be yellow. Matt said, "This is weird. I like it," so it stayed. Flesh color wouldn't work because there'd be no separation between their head and hair. Plus, the loud colors make their world surreal.

S: Where do the guest characters, like Marge's sisters, come from?

DAVID: The sisters are a squashed down version of Marge. So I took Marge's face and sort of crushed it up and gave the sisters the famous Marge hair. Characters mostly come from people we actually know. Matt named Marge and Homer after his own parents.

S: Any others?

WES: Homer's boss, Burns, went through a lot of design work. He's basically a praying mantis. He's a human bug. The voice also helps a lot with design. We've had some great actors do guest voices: Cloris Leachman, Danny DeVito, James Earl Jones, who was also Darth Vader. Once we hear a

Let Go Of Your Anger: Storyboards, like the one on the right, drawn by David Silverman in 1988, when the Simpsons were part of The Tracey Ullman Show, give the artists the chance to plan the visuals for an episode, including the characters' expressions and the camera angles that will most clearly show the action.

character's voice, which we get on tape before we start to create the visuals for an episode, it helps us shape their look.

DAVID: Oh, we based Herman, the one-armed soldier of fortune, on the guy who actually wrote that script. We also take a lot of our cues from Matt's "Life in Hell" drawings.

S: There are people who like to watch the show for the changing visuals, like the different "I will not . . ." on the blackboard every week.

DAVID: And the ending on

the couch. The Homer shuffle. The couch breaking through the floor. My favorite was the one with no couch at all.

WES: There are artists who do nothing but backgrounds. The street scenes. The pictures behind the principal's head in "Bart the Genius."

S: You use some strange angles in the series.

DAVID: In every episode there's at least one reference to a classic movie, like *The Graduate*. We also did the shower scene from













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BEHIND THE SCENES

Look Out, Man: These
three animation drawings, by David Silverman, show the Bartman
in action. From here,
another artist will draw
the steps between each of
these drawings, with
Bart's arm moved just a
little from one drawing to
the next.

Psycho shot for shot. One episode's based on Treasure of the Sierra Madre.

WES: The baseball episode with the Springfield Isotopes was a spin-off from *Pride of The Yankees*. We even went from color to black-and-white in one sequence.

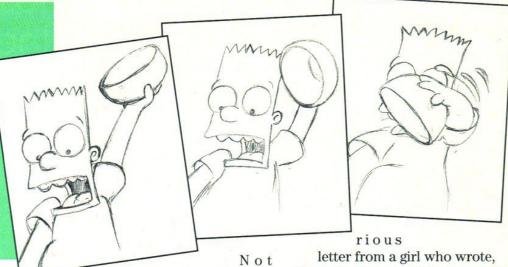
DAVID: It's our way of subversively promoting culture (laughs).

S: What's something a Simpsons character would never do?

WES: They never think evil thoughts.

DAVID: They never cross their eyes. They look wall-eyed. What's cool about the characters is that their eyes make them look like a couple of neurons aren't quite firing—like they're partly living in the clouds, in their own Simpsons universe.

WES: Homer never hits Bart. He chokes him, but Bart chokes him back (laughs). You have to understand the way people act to draw *The Simpsons*. It's the comedy of how people really act, the stupid things they actually do.



the comedy of something falling on someone's head.

\$: So it takes a certain Simpsons mentality to draw the show.

WES: I remember erasing animators' drawings left and right in the beginning. They had Lisa and Bart's tongues wagging out of their mouths. They didn't trust the lines of dialogue, so they made goofy faces and gestures to tell the joke.

S: Where do you get story ideas? **DAVID:** There's a bulletin board with at least 50 ideas taped up. "Bart goes to a rock concert." "Bart goes to camp."

WES: We get tons of viewer mail with funny ideas. We got a hila-

"Our goal was to develop a style of animation that conveyed Matt's sense of the bizarre."

letter from a girl who wrote, "How about Bart getting caught in an elevator or the sewer, or getting a girlfriend?"

S: Any tips for future animators?

WES: Draw as much as possible and see tons of movies. That's where we get ideas for absurd expressions and movement. And listen to all different kinds of music; it's good for determining timing. Always consider that your characters are moving in three dimensions.

DAVID: Definitely. For instance, it takes four drawings to have Homer throw his arms up in the air fast, but maybe eight or ten drawings to have him put his hand on his head and shake it. It's a lot of work—six months and over 100 people just to do *one* show. It's also important to look at paintings, to see where an artist puts people and objects in a frame, and how that makes them more or less important. Wes and I studied art till our heads practically popped off.

-Holly Macfee











SPRING, 1991

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED 31



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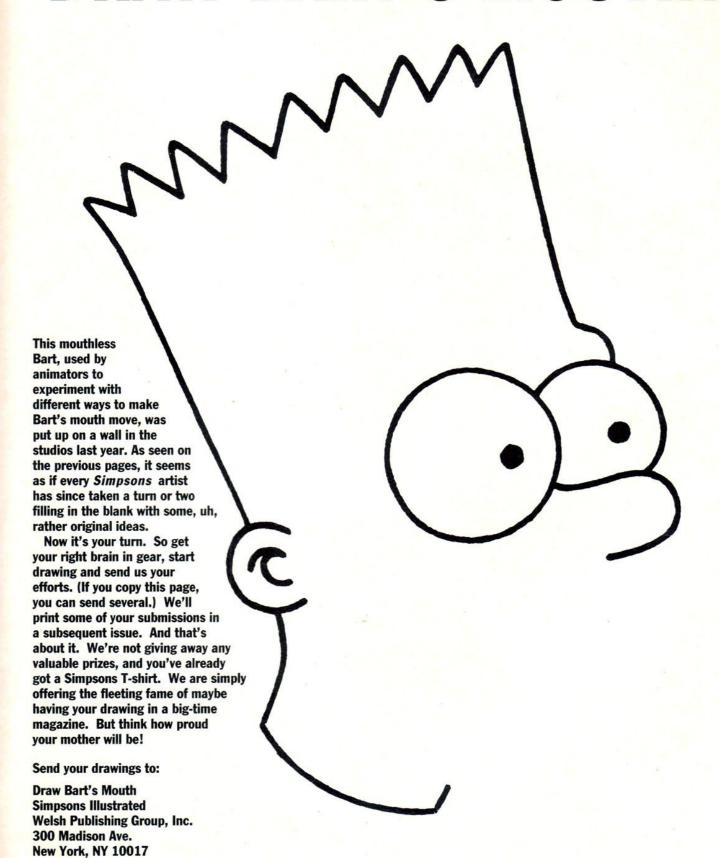
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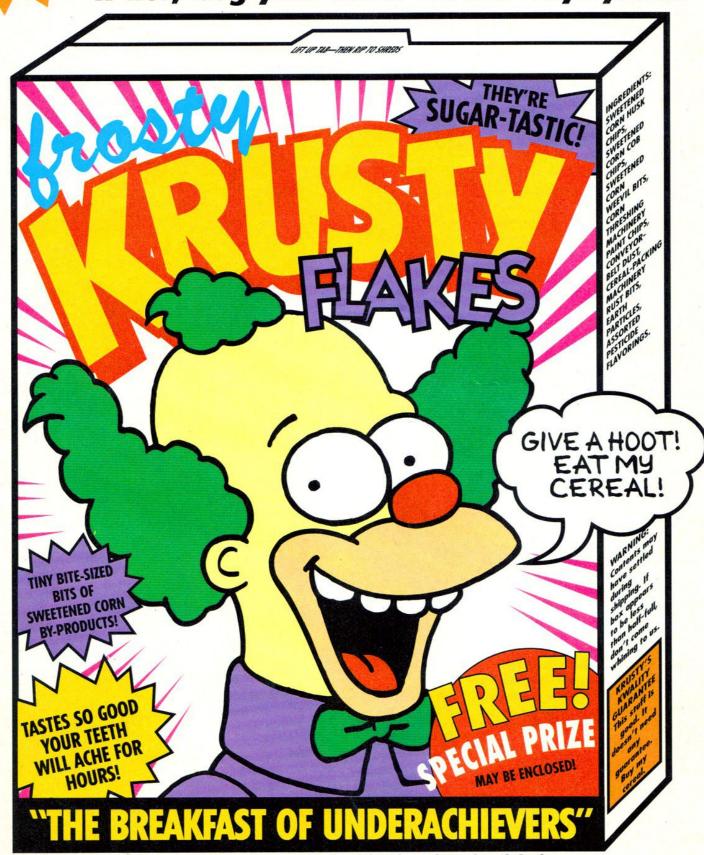


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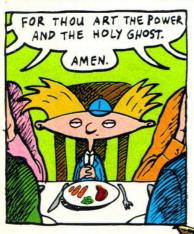
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ARNOLD EATS HIS DINNER

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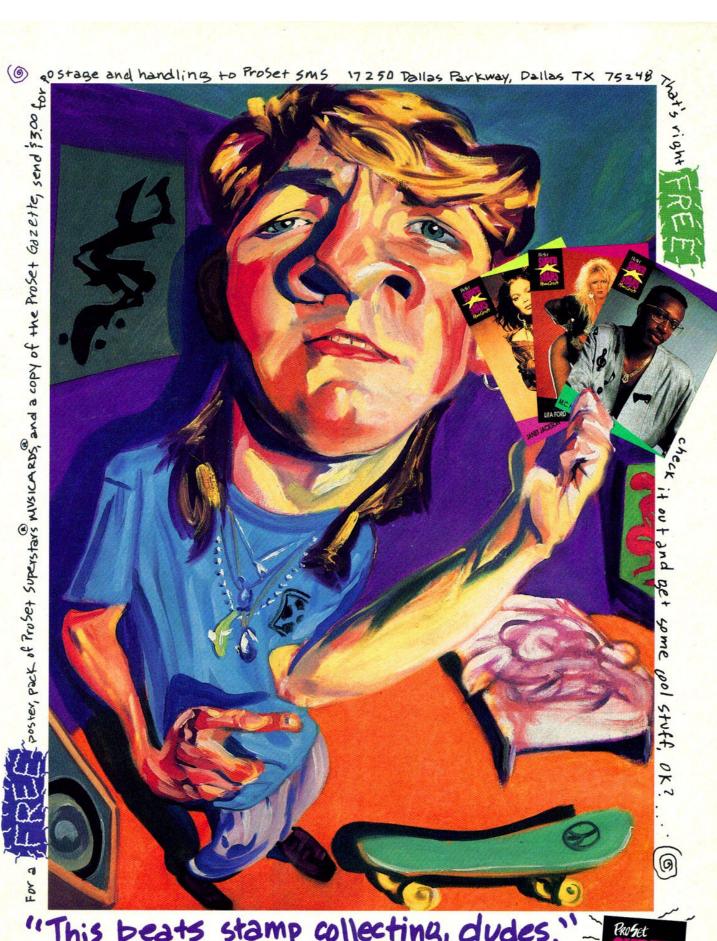








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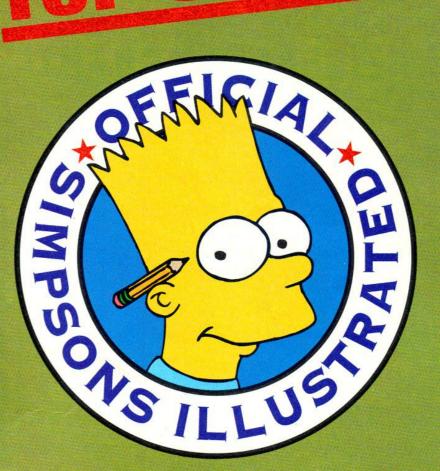


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CLASSROOM TACTICS THE SEATING CHART:

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Gaining the high ground in the class struggle

THE BRAINIAC

A NEARBY SEAT IS A BIG PLUS AT EXAM TIME

WHATSISNAME

NEVER SPEAKS UP. NEVER ACTS **UP-WHO IS HE, ANYWAY?**

THE PERKY GIRL

ACTUALLY SEEMS TO BE ENJOYING HERSELF

THE MALCONTEN¹ AND KEEP IN NOTEBOOK FOR EASY REFERENCE

CLIP

IS THIS YOU?

THE SMUG ONES

20 YEARS FROM NOW. THEY'LL STILL BE A **SOURCE OF IRRITATION**

FRONT ROW

NERDS, GOODY-GOODIES. AND OVER ACHIEVERS

THE SNITCH

NEED WE SAY MORE?

DANGER ZONE

SHADED AREAS SUBJECT TO MAXIMUM TEACHER SCRUTINY

BEST SEAT IN THE HOUSE

OCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

MORONS IN THE BACK ROW

PERSIST IN MISGUIDED BELIEF THAT THEY ARE INVISIBLE

BE CAREFUL:

WITH TEACHERS: **NEVER MAKE DIRECT EYE CONTACT**

WITH REPORTS: **KEEP IT VAGUE AND** UNOPINIONATED

WITH CAFETERIA FOOD: MAY CAUSE UNKNOWN SIDE EFFECTS



- ACT SHOCKED, SPEECHLESS, AND HURT (THIS WILL BUY YOU TIME TO THINK UP A BETTER EXCUSE)
- •TRY THE OLD RELIABLE: "IDIDN'TDOIT NOBODYSAWMEDOITYOUCAN'TPROVE **ANYTHING"**
- •CONFESS IMMEDIATELY—THIS WILL **CONFUSE AND UNBALANCE YOUR OPPONENT**

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Know Your Enemy:

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DOODLE

EASY, FUN. AND ARTISTICALLY SATISFYING, ADDED BENEFIT: **TEACHER MAY ACTUALLY** THINK YOU ARE WORKING

USE SIGN LANGUAGE

HINT: WORKS BEST WHEN **TEACHER'S BACK IS TURNED**

PASS NOTES

CLIP AND KEEP IN NOTEBOOK FOR EASY REFERENCE

CAUTION: ALTHOUGH IT MAY LOOK COOL IN OLD MOVIES, **SWALLOWING A NOTE WHEN CAUGHT IS PROBABLY NOT** A GOOD IDEA

GO TO THE REST ROOM

10 MINUTES PER TRIP X 6 CLASSES PER DAY = 25 FEWER DAYS OF CLASS PER YEAR

WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS

LISTEN TO THE TEACHER-YOU COULD POSSIBLY LEARN **SOMETHING INTERESTING**

E TEACHER **Ticking Time Bomb of the Classroom** MENACING GLARE SPLITTING **HEADACHE NERVOUS TIC** THOUGHTS OF WHAT MIGHT **HAVE BEEN** STRANGE GROWLING IID NOISES **UPPER-BACK PAIN** MIDDLE-COLD, COLD **BACK PAIN** HEART LOWER-**BACK PAIN** UPSET **STOMACH** TIME-WASTING SHARP **HOMEWORK OBJECT ASSIGNMENT ACHING** WHITE

REMEMBER: YOU WILL EVENTUALLY GRADUATE* AND GET OUT OF THIS PLACE, BUT YOUR TEACHER IS STUCK HERE PERMANENTLY, (THIS MAY EXPLAIN WHY HE OR SHE GETS A MITE TESTY AT TIMES.)

THINGS TEACHERS DON'T WANT TO HEAR WHEN THEY SAY, "ARE THERE ANY OUESTIONS?"

- "Will this be on the test?"
- "Was that A.D. or B.C.?"
- "May I go to the bathroom?"
- "Could you repeat that?"

FIGHTING BACK

A THREE-STEP APPROACH

- **1) TAKE CAREFUL NOTES ON ALL** THE BORING, STUPID, AND UNFAIR THINGS GOING ON AROUND YOU
- 2 WAIT 20 YEARS
- 3 USE NOTES AS BASIS FOR WILDLY SUCCESSFUL TV SERIES

AND IF YOU DO SURVIVE SCHOOL, THEN WHAT? HERE'S ONE WAY TO FIND OUT!

QUIZ • NO STUDYING • NO CHEATING

When you are picked on by the school bully, you:
 A. Tell the principal

FEET

- B. Tell the teacher
- Hide in your locker
- D. Attempt to distract him with witty
- 2. When the teacher asks if you have
- your homework, you:

 A. Say: "Yes, ma'am, and I'd like to say that I found the subject quite fascinating and stimulating"
- B. Say: "The dog ate it"
 C. Say: "Homework? What homework?'
 D. Attempt to distract her with witty
- repartee

- 3. When called upon to read your book
- report, you: Deliver a stirring account of Lee
- lacocca's autobiography
 B. Give a competent synopsis of Black Beauty
 C. Summarize the latest issue of
- Radioactive Man
- D. Bluff your way through Treasure Island attempt to distract with witty repartee

SCORING

Count 4 points for each A answer, 3 for each B, 2 for each C, and 1 for

Now find your point total in the list below to discover your future career:

Politician, media figure, corporate executive, school principal

9-11 POINTS

KNUCKLES

Mid-level bureaucrat, IRS agent, school

teacher 4-8 POINTS

Assistant manager of fast-food franchise, car salesman, vice president of the United States

0-3 POINTS

Publishers' Clearinghouse Sweepstakes entrant, daytime TV viewer, embittered struggling artist

BART'S BOTTOM 40

- 1. LISA'S SAXOPHONE
- 2. VEGETABLES THAT DON'T FLY WELL OFF YOUR SPOON
- 3. WRINKLED OLD GROWNUPS - I HOPE I NEVER BECOME ONE
- 4. THE CHEAP LOUSY PRIZES THEY GIVE AWAY IN BOXES OF FROSTY KRUSTY FLAKES
- 5. HAVING NIGHTMARES THAT I'M A CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK
- 6. BEING CAUGHT RED-HANDED
- 7. THE HARDENED CRUST ON THE TOP OF MOM'S CASSEROLES
- 8. THE GOOEY STUFF UNDERNEATH THE HARDENED CRUST ON THE TOP OF MOM'S CASSEROLES
- 9. PRINCIPAL SKINNER'S SPECIAL FILE ON ME
- 10. THE "NO DRAWING ON THE WALL" RULE
- 11. THE FACT THAT OTTO HARDLY EVER LETS ME DRIVE THE SCHOOL BUS
- 12. CREAMED CORN
- 13. PARENTS WHO HAVE SIGNATURES THAT ARE REALLY HARD TO FORGE
- 14. ACCIDENTALLY FEELING GUM STUCK UNDERNEATH A RESTAURANT TABLE
- 15. SUCKING ON YOUR PEN IN SCHOOL AND HAVING YOUR MOUTH FILL UP WITH INK
- 16. NAMBY-PAMBY G-RATED MOVIES
- 17. DAD'S SNORING THAT YOU CAN HEAR THROUGH THE WALL EVEN WITH A PILLOW COVERING YOUR HEAD
- 18. STORIES WITH MORALS AT THE END
- 19. CARTOONS WITH NO FUN VIOLENCE AND PAIN
- 20. CARTOONS WHERE THEY RUN PAST THE SAME LAMP AND TABLE A ZILLION TIMES
- 21. THE STRAWBERRY AND VANILLA PARTS OF NEOPOLITAN ICE CREAM
- 22. GAS STATION RESTROOMS
- 23. MAKING BAD WORDS WITH MY ALPHABET SOUP AND HAVING LISA TELL ME THEY'RE MISSPELLED
- 24. ACCIDENTALLY DRINKING OUT OF THE GLASS WHERE GRANDPA KEEPS HIS FALSE
- 25. THE DIFFICULTY OF LOADING WATER BALLOONS WITH MAPLE SYRUP
- 26. SUGARLESS ANYTHING
- 27. BEING TRIED IN COURT AS AN ADULT
- 28. VENGEFUL BARBERS
- 29. THE HAUNTING THOUGHT THAT SIDESHOW BOB WILL GET OUT OF JAIL SOMEDAY
- 30. RIP-OFF CHOCOLATE BUNNIES THAT ARE HOLLOW INSIDE
- 31. WAR. I DON'T WANT THERE TO BE ANY WARS UNTIL I CAN START ONE MYSELF
- 32. PHLEGM (ALSO ON MY TOP 40 LIST)
- 33. WHEN MOM SAYS "IF ALL YOUR FRIENDS JUMPED OFF THE BRIDGE, WOULD YOU JUMP TOO?"
- 34. CARTOONS WITH REDEEMING SOCIAL MESSAGES
- 35. THE NONEDIBLE DECORATIONS ON BIRTHDAY CAKES THAT YOU ACCIDENTALLY TRY TO EAT
- 36. BRUSSELS SPROUTS
- 37. FORGETTING ABOUT THE CANDY BAR YOU PUT IN YOUR PANTS POCKET ON A REALLY HOT DAY
- 38. SWIMMING POOL BELLY-FLOPS THAT BOTH HURT AND LOOK DUMB
- 39. THE BOTTOMS OF YOUR SNEAKERS AFTER YOU COME OUT OF A PETTING ZOO
- 40. BEING AN "UNDERACHIEVER" - TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I'M NOT EXACTLY SURE WHAT THE WORD MEANS

42 SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED SPRING 1991

THE SIMPSONS" BARTHE SPACE MUTANTS



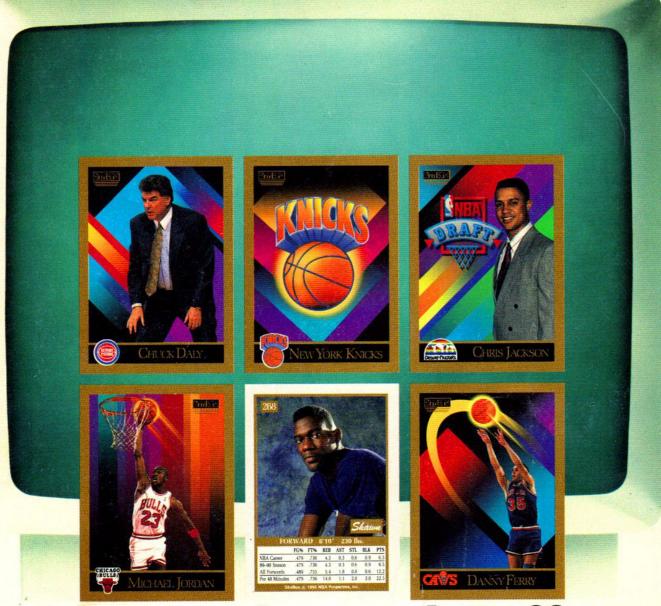
up to me to stop 'em. I've gotta spraypaint things, get radical on my skateboard, and in general behave like a nuisance, man. It's a good thing I've got the rest of the Simpsons to help me out. So if you're a decent person, a patriot, save the Earth! *Buy this game!*







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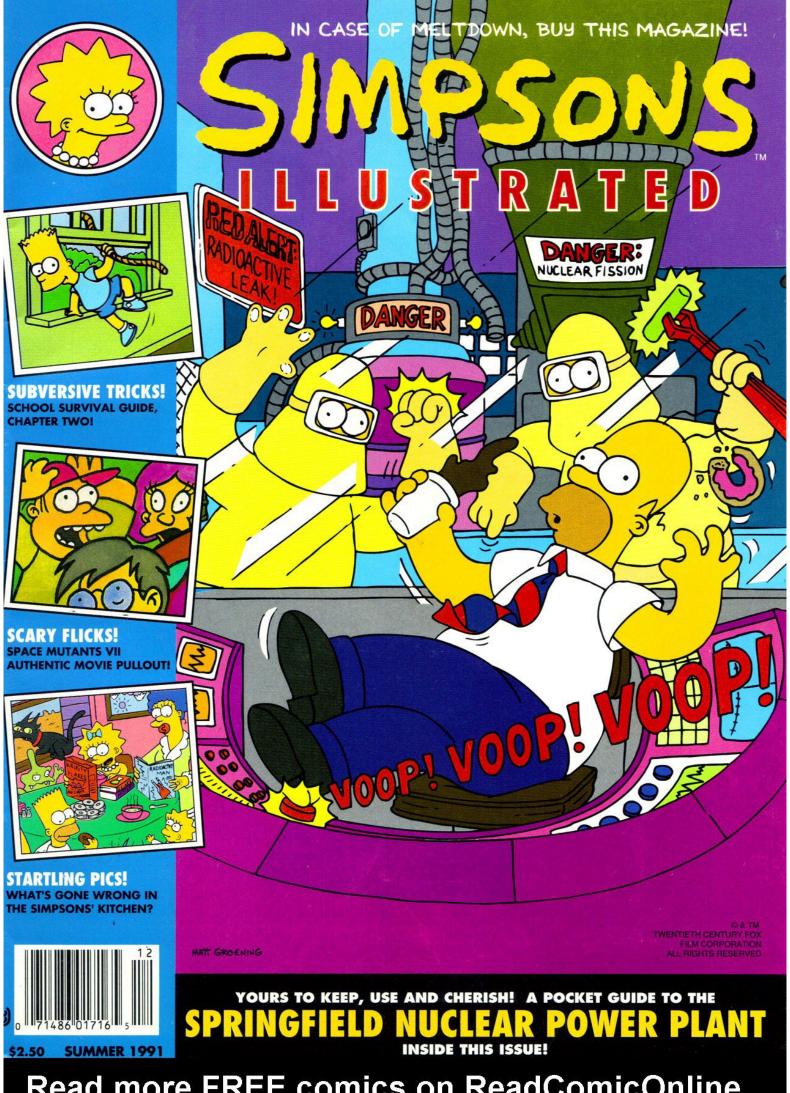
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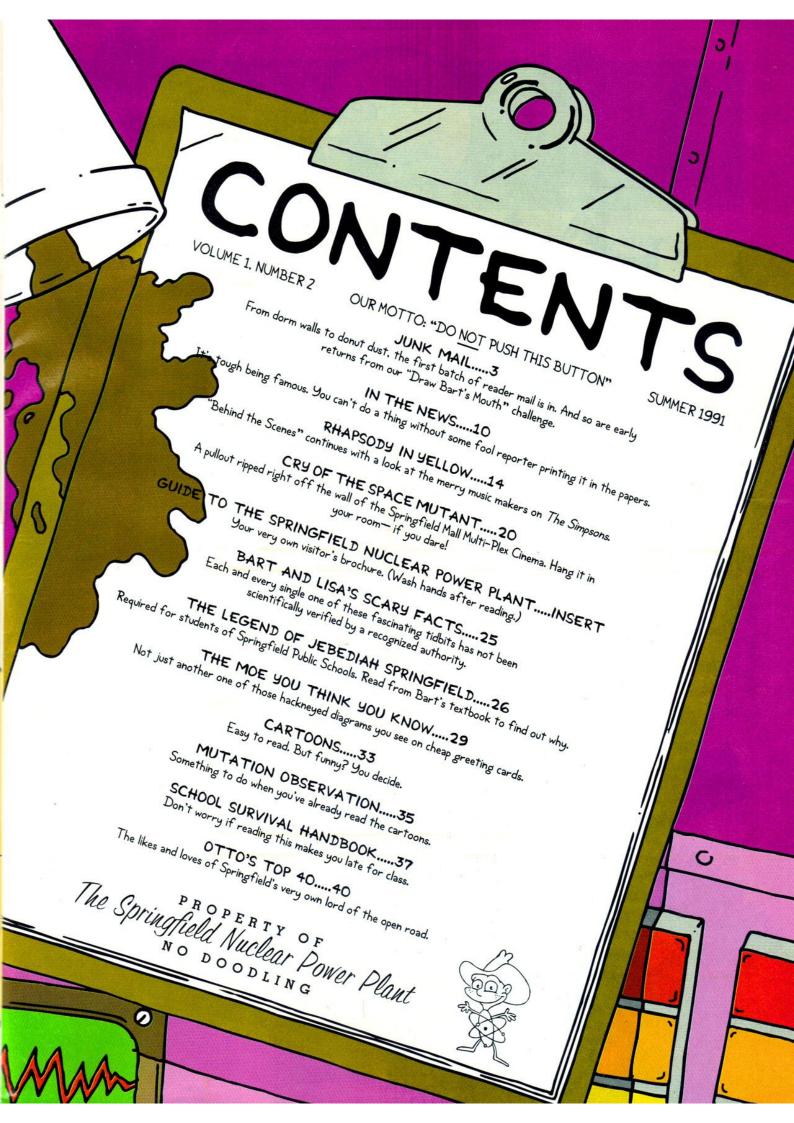
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Wheaton, MD

We want your mail. No, not your unpaid bills. We want you to fill this page every

issue. So let us know what you liked, and what you didn't, in this issue. If you have any big ideas, let us hear them. We're going to keep at it until everybody is happy! We'll even take a look at your artwork, poems (now that's really special!) and practically anything else you send us. The possibilities are endless. So write!

WALL BART

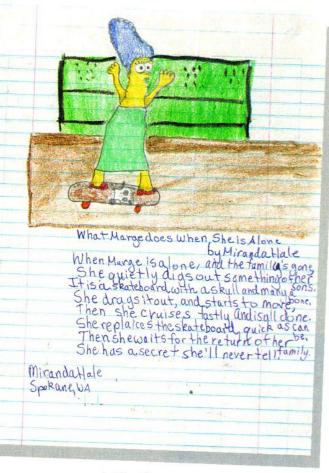
Dear Mr. Groening,

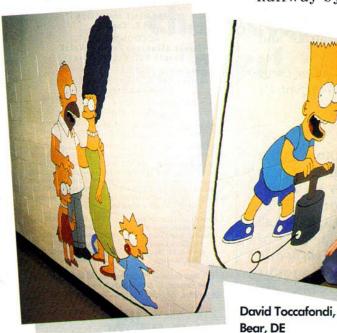
I am a freshman at Virginia Polytechnic and State University, (or 'Tech,' which is a lot easier to say). I am just writing to tell you how much I appreciate the job you are doing and have done for quite some time.

I live in Pritchard Hall, which is the largest all-male dorm east of the Mississippi River. The *only* time that it is quiet is Thursdays at 8 pm, when everyone settles down in the TV lounges with pizza and a bag of Doritos to watch another day in the life of the Simpsons.

Personally, I take my Bart doll with me wherever I go, with his head sticking out of the pocket of my bookbag or coat. Also, I added some color to my hallway by

POETRY IN MOTION





painting the

Simpsons on the wall outside my room, from a picture in an issue of our TV magazine. Everyone here agrees that I couldn't have picked a better subject to paint.

> —David Toccafondi Bear, DE

COW-ABUNGA

Dear Editor,

Believe me, man, this is a very moo-ving story! For practically no reason (besides me eating all the cupcakes, drawing on the wall, watching too much TV, and skateboarding in the kitchen) my mom has a cow!

JUNK MAIL



Christopher Huddleston, Encino, CA

So, my dad decided she might as well get one! We live in the city and can't have a real one, but "Besse-Belle" is a totally radical 500 lb of solid cement. And holy

cow, does she need a lot of attention! We have to put fresh straw around her every other

day, and keep

her tied to the fence so no one can steal her.

—Holly Cooper Defiance, OH

MORNIN', MARGE

Dear Editor,

I have just about all the Simpsons products, which I keep in my room. When I wake up in the morning, instead of being greeted by my parents, I'm greeted by the Simpsons. I made them with my grandfather out of wood (lifesize). I want to display all my things somewhere so that people can see them, so I'm taking them to the

Buckley fair this year.

—Christopher B. Huddleston Encino, CA

JUNG AND RESTLESS

Dear Editor,

I'm writing from the shop, (third shift). Please excuse the donut dust. I'm a born-again boomer burnout, so I really can identify with Springfield and the world of the Simpsons. It's so much like what America's really like, I love it. Why have Jungian analysis when your archetypes are so much more accurate and up to date. So 90s.

—Tom Gregg Waterford, PA

FREUDIAN SLIP?

Dear Editor.

I would like to know if the face of Homer Simpson was

designed to be a signature (or initials) for Matt Groening?

> I am a fan of The Simpsons and of Simpsons Illustrated as well.

> > —Robert Marker Santa Monica, CA



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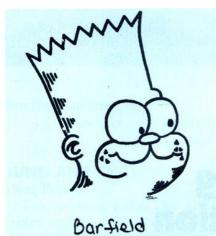
EADERS GIVE BART SOME

We asked for 'em, and man did you ever send 'em. Bart's mouths have been pouring in by the hundreds. Ninth and eleventh graders at Near North Career Metropolitan High School in Chicago, Illinois sent in more than 70 entries, and one enterprising reader from Toledo, Ohio, even attempted to bribe us by slipping a dollar into the envelope along with the drawing. Nice try. Some greats we didn't print include Bart the basketball net, mutant Krusty Bart, and multiple versions of Bart's very own lipless kisser.

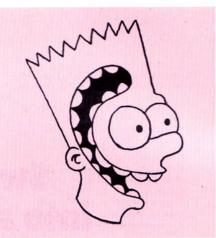
Here's a sampling of your work. We'll try to print more in a future issue.



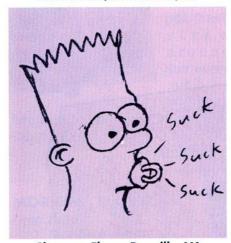
Dustin Glick, Forest Hills, NY



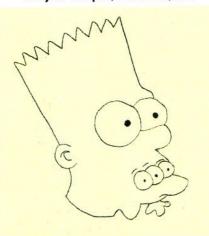
Holly S. Cooper, Defiance, OH



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Beth Redding, Chelsea, MI



Jeff Elbel, Lawndale, CA















IRON MAN COLOSSUS

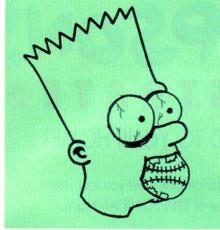
SCISSORHANDS FLASH

BATMAN

DICK TRACY

SPIDERMAN

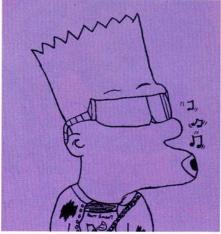
J U N K M R I L



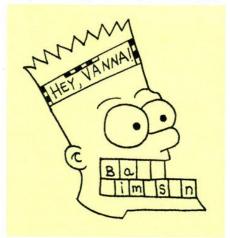
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NIGHTCRAWLER



WOLVERINE



PUNISHER



LONGSHOT



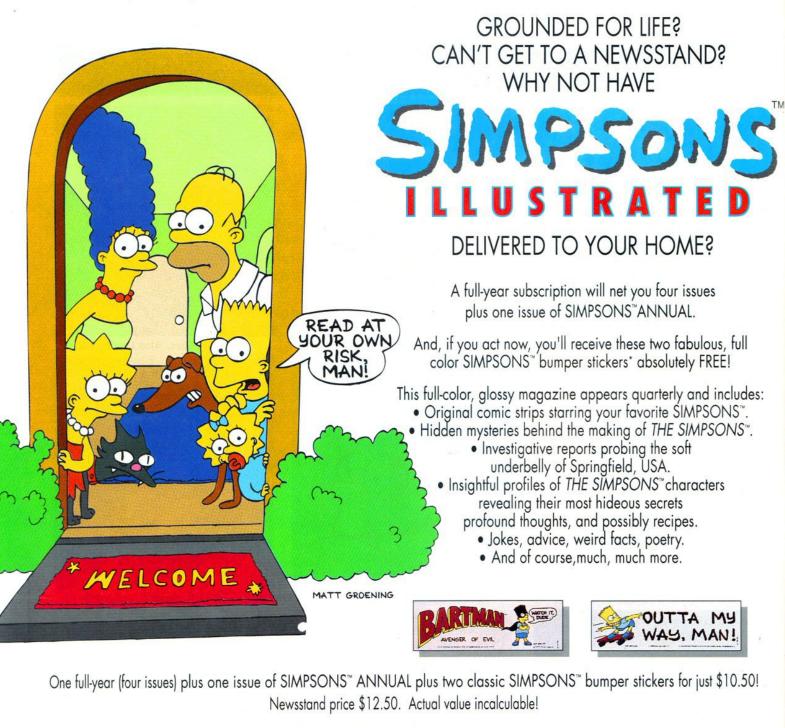
NINJA TURTLE



GHOST RIDER



ARCHANGEL



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YOU CAN'T PROVE A THING

David Slesinger of Derry, New Hampshire, dressed as Bart Simpson, was one of 11 protesters arrested May 1 for trespassing at the Pilgrim nuclear plant in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Ironically, plant officials closed the facility the following day because radioactive water was leaking from a pump seal. Slesinger, who spent the night in jail, told reporter Bob Carroll of the Old Colony Memorial: "On one hand, it's amusing that it began to happen while we were there. But then again, you don't want anyone to get hurt. A leak is a leak."

LOOK IT UP, MAN

No need to ask the Bartman for a list of the books you ain't gonna catch him dead with. Let's just say that the *Encyclopedia Britannica* is right up there.

But if, by accident, he stumbled across the 1991 Britannica Book of the Year, he'd find *The Simpsons* mentioned on page 361, under "Television and Radio."

An excerpt: "In broadcast network programming, 1990 was the year that Fox made its mark with the help of Bart, the wisecracking, bug-eyed star of the animated sitcom, *The Simpsons*, created by cartoonist Matt Groening (see Biographies). At one time Bart could be found not only on the network schedule once a week but also, it seemed, on the T-shirt of every prepubescent boy in the country."

The *Britannica* biography of Simpsons creator Groening has stuff you probably know by now: did hard time in detention hall for

doodling in class; later did hard time in Los Angeles and created the "Life in Hell®" comic strip, etc.

Now, don't get any bright ideas about buying this huge Britannica book just to read a tiny blurb.

However, if you insist on checking it out, turn to pages 70-71. You'll find "Groening, Matt" right between "Gorbachev, Mikhail Sergeyevich" and "Hall, Arsenio."

Where else would he be?

THAT'S DEEP

Many's the time aboard the Golden Doubloon, a fishing boat for hire out of San Pedro, that Cap'n Greg and his mates have marveled at the

WAYNE COUNTY VOTES FOR BART

A low voter turnout at the Wayne County, West Virginia, general election last November didn't stop Bart from picking up an unsolicited five votes for County Commissioner there. Members of the "Brave New Bart" Popular Front were unavailable for comment, but a march on Washington might be next on the agenda.

—The Wayne County News

junk that rises from the briny deep.

These old salts thought they'd seen it all—until last April.

That's when one of the divers aboard the Doubloon surfaced with an officially licensed Bart doll, which he had recovered from 80 feet below the ocean's surface.

"At 80 feet, most air-filled containers don't stand a chance," said Cap'n Greg. "They implode. They're history, gone. How this Bart doll survived, I just don't know."

Should we tell him?



Rescued from the depths, this Bart doll tells no tales.

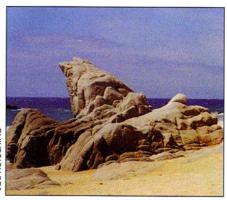
MILI SMYTHE

IN THE NEWS

A MONUMENTAL DISCOVERY

In February, Tom Buetler took a trip from Los Angeles to Baja California. Standing motionless on an otherwise empty beach at Cabo San Lucas, suddenly aware that the rock formation facing him was an exact likeness of Grampa Abraham Simpson, Buetler spoke, on behalf of us all, a single word.

"Whoa."



Grampa Abraham Simpson rock in Baja California.

FOUND: BART'S ALTER EGO

Bart Simpson of Sylvester, Georgia, reckons that if Bart Simpson, cartoon character, ever came face to face with him, "He'd probably be surprised."

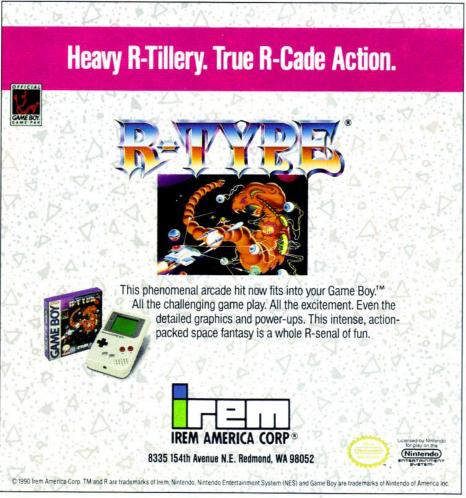
Don't get him wrong, man. The 15-year-old Bart, who recently finished his freshman year at Worth County High School, enjoys a good water balloon war as much as the next kid. Other than that, he's a soft-spoken guy with a basketball hoop in his back yard and a passion for baseball cards.

When it comes to being Bart Simpson, though, he gets his biggest kick from people's reactions to his name.

On his first day of high school, Bart's gym class fell silent when the teacher called his name. And his mother, Trisha, says that on a recent visit to the dentist, "The same thing happened. Everybody turned to look at him."

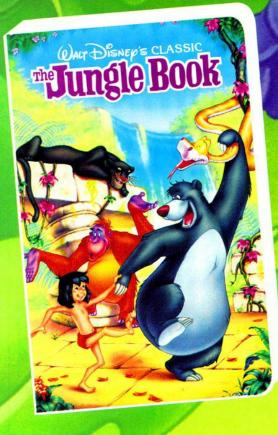
Bart's favorite Simpsons characters are (who else?) Bart and Homer.





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IN THE NEWS



The "real" Bart Simpson?

Why? "Homer's always got something to say, and they're always fussing at each other."

Unlike Yolo County (California) Undersheriff Bart Simpson (In The News, Simpsons Illustrated, Spring 1991), this Bart enjoys sharing his name with a celebrity brat.

Trisha Simpson says, "Sometimes, he warns me, 'Mama, I'm gonna turn out to be like my namesake on TV.' I just tell him, 'No way.'"

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED IN THE NEWS

"If television is the devil's baby sitter, then Bart Simpson is the antichrist of academic achievement," said *USA Today* on Friday, April 12, in its review of *Simpsons Illustrated*.

The review lambasted the "School Survival Handbook," and said that parents who buy the magazine for their kids "shouldn't be surprised when Junior displays a blatantly hostile attitude toward school, academic achievement and teachers." Referring to the March/April edition of the *Harvard Business Review*, which said that U.S. students continue to chalk up poor performances on worldwide academic tests, *USA Today* implied that these low scores are Bart Simpson's, and *Simpsons Illustrated's*, fault.

- USA Today

SIMPSONS IN THE SAND

It took the folks at Houston's EDI Architecture/Planning three years to do it, but in 1990 they finally won the AIA/Steelcase Sandcastle Competition. This beachside extravaganza is held annually at Galveston Island, Texas.

EDI's sand sculpture of the Simpson family, one of 40 entries by Houston area architectural and design firms, took first prize overall, as well as "most lifelike" and "most popular."

When last heard from, the EDI team was preparing to defend its title (and the Simpson family honor) in this year's event, held June 1.

EDI's Jim Ronczy said the team's approach has evolved from "laid back" to "serious marketing."

"In 1988, all we had to work with was a rough sketch of a mermaid," Ronczy said. "People kept coming up and asking, 'What's that supposed to be?' When it was done, they asked, 'What's that supposed to be?'

"The next year, we said, 'We gotta get serious,' so we did a parody of a Monopoly board and introduced color. The thing was only about a foot-and-a-half high, though. It wasn't even chosen most popular—and we stuffed the ballot box!"

Ronczy said that the group agreed

IN BART WE TRUST

In March, careful observers of CBS TV's NCAA basketball tournament coverage saw one spectator's contribution to Simpsonian and American culture.

During a time-out in one of the first-round games, the camera zoomed in on the tails' side of a Thomas Jefferson nickel. The hand turned the coin, revealing the head of . . . no, not the famous democrat, but an equally famous demo-brat. Guess who.

on last year's winning idea after days of debating whether to do the Simpsons or the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. By the time June came around, the Turtles movie had been playing for two months and had inspired two entries in the competition. EDI's entry was the only one with a Simpsons theme.

"Actually, we made a backup entry," Ronczy said. "We smoothed out a patch of sand on our plot, ran three tire tracks across it and entered it as the Stealth Bomber. It tied our Simpsons entry as most lifelike."



The EDI beach brigade rules the sands with its "most lifelike" Simpsons prizewinner.

The conductor raises his arms. An expectant silence settles over the room. The orchestra seems to tense as one body, and the count begins.

Then, on cue, the music surges forth-a Las Vegas showband sound that would delight Wayne Newton.

The music builds to a crescendo, only to halt as abruptly as it began. The conductor lowers his arms and turns to his audience for approval.

His audience doesn't exactly approve.

"I want to be able to hear that drum," says Jay Kogen, a producer of The Simpsons and the author of the "Old Money" episode, which will air in six

days.

Grampa In the story, Simpson inherits a small fortune from his girlfriend. At this point in the episode, Grampa is off to Las Vegas on a casino junket, in hopes of doubling his inheritance.

A busload of geriatrics from the Springfield Retirement Home pulls up to the casino. Flashing neon signs, spouting fountains and toga-clad cocktail waitresses

A Look at the **People Behind** the Music We Hear on The Simpsons

By Andy Rivera



Composer-conductor Alf Clausen

take over the screen...accompanied, of course, by a burst of show-band sound.

When you sit down to watch The Simpsons, you may not even notice the music-unless Lisa plays the blues. But it's an indispensible part of the presentation, every bit as important (and sometimes every bit as subtle) as the visual details that appear in the corners of numerous scenes.

"The music helps to sell the reality of the show, more than it helps to sell any joke in the show," Kogen says. "Because the people are drawn, and sometimes the drawings can't convey everything, the music helps a great deal.

Composer-conductor Alf Clausen takes Kogen's point about selling the reality of the show a step further:

"We don't consider The Simpsons a cartoon. These are real people.

"More important, what I have \D found on this show is that the editing is a lot tighter than in a typical dramatic show format. It's difficult to find long spaces for fitting in music. The stories are

BEHIND THE SCENES



detailed, and the editing is tight. Sometimes I only have three or four or five seconds to play something sad, before it changes gears and goes someplace else."

You may be surprised to find out how much work goes into the music behind each episode. Assisted by a handful of skilled technicians, Clausen assembles the complete score for a single show, to be played by a 40-piece orchestra.

They have five days to do it.

The process begins on Monday, 11 days before the episode will be aired. The first step is called the "music spotting session." Clausen, Kogen and a group of music and special effects people view the show without benefit of sound—no dialogue, no music.

40-Piece Orchestra:
The size and
versatility of
Simpsons musicians
is needed to create
a wide variety of
sounds, from Lisa's
12-bar blues to Las
Vegas showroom
swing.

"We go through the show," Kogen says, "and we talk about what music we need and where we need it. [Clausen] gives his ideas, what he'd like to do. And they're usually right on target."

That figures. Clausen's credits

as a composer for television include "Moonlighting" and "ALF." He has received seven Emmy nominations.

"It's a collaborative effort," Clausen says. "I look at the scene and then evaluate the observations that were made in the spotting session. Then I try to compose a piece of music that will fit emotionally to what they've asked for. Once I have a general idea as to the style of the music, the nuts and bolts part of it starts.

"Sometimes they just leave it up to me and say, 'We know there should be music there. Do something."

Clausen has all of three days to work on the "nuts and bolts" of composing the music. (Between finishing his work and



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First Impressions: When the orchestra comes together on Friday afternoon, just days before the episode airs, the musicians see Clausen's music for the first time.

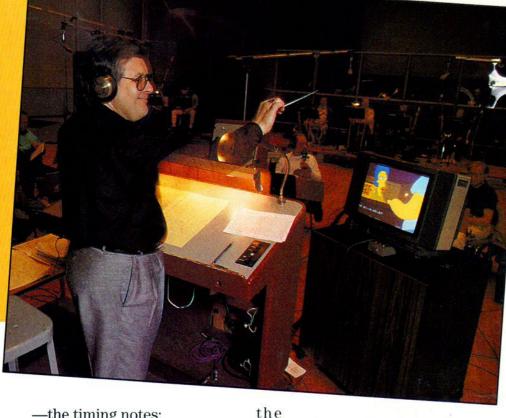
recording it in the intense, fourhour Friday afternoon session, Clausen must leave time for copyist Joann Kane and her staff to extract the orchestral parts.)

After the spotting session, music editors Chris Ledesma and Bob Bedecher prepare a set of "music spotting notes" for Clausen. These take the form of a numbered list of music cues. Each includes a brief description, a starting time, a stopping time and an approximate length. An episode of average TheSimpsons contains 30 music cues.

Once the music cues have been assembled, Ledesma and Bedecher break down each cue into "timing notes," observations about each scene.

Clausen explains the timing notes: "If a guy turns, if a guy pokes somebody in the shoulder, if a guy falls over dead, [the music editors] will describe, in seconds and one-hundredths of seconds, the exact timing of each one of those pieces of action.

For example, a 3.7-second scene could have many different actions. Clausen's tools for merging his composition with the scene include:



—the timing notes;

-a computer;

-a "click-track," which is an extremely precise type of digital metronome that the orchestra members will hear in their headphones during the recording session;

"visual streamers," various colored bars that will pass across

"The music helps to sell the reality of the show. We don't consider The Simpsons a cartoon. These are real people."

screen of the video monitor next to Clausen during the recording session. (Incidentally, Clausen will be the only person in the studio with a video monitor.)

Using the visual streamers, which mark the beginning and end of the music sequence, Clausen can plot the music so that it precisely matches the action on the television screen.

During the three-day process of composing the score for each episode, Clausen can turn to a team of specialists, which includes:

—Orchestrator Hummie Mann. If Clausen is pressed for time, he can give Mann a "sketch" of his needs. Later, during the recording session, Mann will serve as Clausen's "ears" in the control booth.

-Music contractor Mike Rubin. Using an overall list drawn up by Clausen, Rubin selects the players who will perform the show's music.

—Carol Farhat, head of televi-

sion music for Twentieth Century Fox. Farhat coordinates all the musical elements in the show, from renting the recording studio (in this case, Evergreen Studios on the CBS lot in Studio City) to negotiating for the rights to a song called for in a particular show's script.

-Two teams of engineers. Either the Fox team of Armin Steiner and Terry Brown, or the freelance team of Rick Riccio and Steve Bartkowicz.

Friday afternoon, 2:00.

Through the heavy glass of the control booth, a visitor can see the orchestra, surrounded by microphones.

A small group sits jammed in

Using "visual streamers," Clausen can plot the music so that it precisely matches the action on the television screen.

the booth. Behind producer Kogen are three engineers, working the maze of switches and levers on the sound board. Also on hand are members of The Simpsons' writing staff, making sure the "feel" of the music corresponds to what came out of Monday's spotting session.

Outside, members of the orchestra scan their music

FROM BATMAN TO BART, MAN

Although most of the soundtrack music is written by Alf Clausen, the theme song you hear at the beginning of each show was written by Danny Elfman, the lead singer and songwriter Oingo Boingo.

Elfman's musical career began in the 1970s when his group, then called the Mystic Knight of Oingo Boingo, began performing bizarre big-



PHOTO: DENNIS KEELEY

band music at Los Angeles night clubs. Constant costume changes, including gorilla suits, kept audiences amused and confused. After several years of struggling, Elfman jettisoned the mutant Cab Calloway-style theatrics of the large band, and developed the rhythmically sophisticated new-wave rock 'n' roll of Oingo Boingo.

In 1985, Elfman began a secondary career as a movie composer when he scored Pee-Wee's Big Adventure for director Tim Burton. These days, he's one of Hollywood's busiest film composers, with Batman, Beetlejuice, Scrooged, and Dick Tracy among his credits.

Simpsons Illustrated: How were you selected to write the theme song to The Simpsons?

Danny Elfman: I don't know if you ever know how you're picked. I would suppose, because I'd done Pee-Wee's Big Adventure and some movies like that, they thought of me.

S: What was your approach in creating the theme song?

Elfman: I talked at length with Matt Groening and got an idea of the style he hoped it would be. Before I take on any job, I try to find out what they're looking for, and if it's something I would enjoy doing. If not, I don't do it. Being that I'm a big fan of oldfashioned television themes, and that's what Matt was looking for, the project sounded exciting. I don't like modern themes, and The Simpsons is definitely written in the style of a 1960s TV theme.

S: What sorts of styles influenced you when you wrote the theme?

Elfman: It was in the style of The Flinstones or The Jetsons, the

SUMMER 1991

BEHIND THE SCENES

way the violins played in the sixties, very fast...very fun and very crazy.

S: The '60s?

Elfman: Absolutely. In fact, all of the TV themes I've written have specifically dated back to the '60s, because back then the TV themes were really fun. That's when you had *The Addams Family* and *I Dream of Jeannie* and *The Munsters* and *Gilligan's Island*—one of the best. These were great, memorable themes. Nowadays, television themes tend to be more laid-back and modern and don't really have much of a melody that you'd remember. I like the fun, in-your-face style of those old themes.

S: They didn't take themselves so seriously?

Elfman: I was just looking for something Simpsons-y. I wanted it to feel like it could have been the '60s, the '80s, the '90s, one of those timeless animated themes that wouldn't feel as if it were from any particular era.

S: What was the actual process you used to write the theme?

Elfman: As soon as I got a feel for what the show was, it just popped right into my head. I wrote it down, then did a demo of the piece on synthesizers. I played it for them; they liked it, and that was that.

S: Do you have any favorite episodes of *The Simpsons*?

Elfman: One of my favorites was the one where Bart was made a slave at the winery in France. Being that I've worked in France myself, and all of my in-laws on my brother's side are French, I got a particular kick out of that.

S: How did you begin doing movie scores?

Elfman: I've always loved film scores. I got into it more from

"The Addams
Family and I Dream
of Jeannie and
Gilligan's
Island...These were
great, memorable
themes."

being a fan than any other way. The very first thing I did was for my brother. It was what you'd call a midnight film, a very low-budget musical called *Forbidden Zone*. It wasn't until five years later, when Tim Burton and Pee-Wee Herman hired me to do *Pee-Wee's Big Adventure*, that I really began

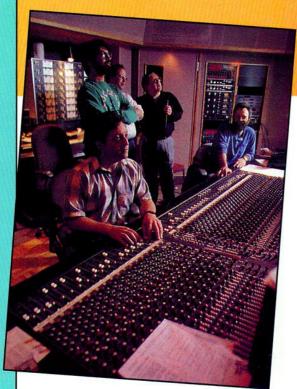
my career as a film composer. It took off from there. *Pee-Wee* was my first orchestral film score, and *Batman* was my tenth. Tim's movies tend to be on fives. *Pee-Wee* was my first, *Beetle-juice* my fifth, *Batman* my tenth, and *Edward Scissorhands* was almost my fifteenth, but alas, it was only my fourteenth. If I just stuck in one more movie, I would have kept a perfect symmetry. **S**: Do you have any tips for young musicians?

Elfman: Just to stick with your intuition. Really, the whole trick in anything in the arts is to get a strong sense of your own intuition

and stick with it.

—Andy Rivera

Sealed off behind the thick glass of the control booth, engineers communicate with the orchestra through microphones, headsets, and overhead speakers.



sheets.

This is their first look at Clausen's work, and they will sight-read as they perform. To a visitor's untrained ear, every passage will sound perfect the first time it is played, but it often takes several recorded attempts before the entire staff is satisfied.

Less than a week later, the show will appear on the Fox Television Network. Midway through the episode, a tiny bus will pull up to a glittering casino. In the background we'll hear the sound of an orchestra—a "Las Vegas" sound, but with a special Simpsons touch.



STARRING SALAGAR • MARCUS VAN DOREN • TROY MCCLURE AND INTRODUCING JANIS KINDERTOTENLIEDER AS "THE MUTANIT" • MUSIC BY CARMINE KINDERTOTENLIEDER EXECUTIVE PRODUCER HAL KINDERTOTENLIEDER • FROM AN IDEA BY DAVID KINDERTOTENLIEDER. JR. • WRITTEN, PRODUCED, AND DIRECTED BY DAVID KINDERTOTENLIEDER

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shooting stars, even telepathy. This dude even has the ability to change forms...from a bird to a lion to a giant lizard.

TOTALLY RAD IS TOTALLY RAD!



Excellent! Dude meets magician.



Bogus! Dude meets monster.



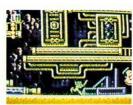
Take to the air, dude!



Whoa! Life's a beach.



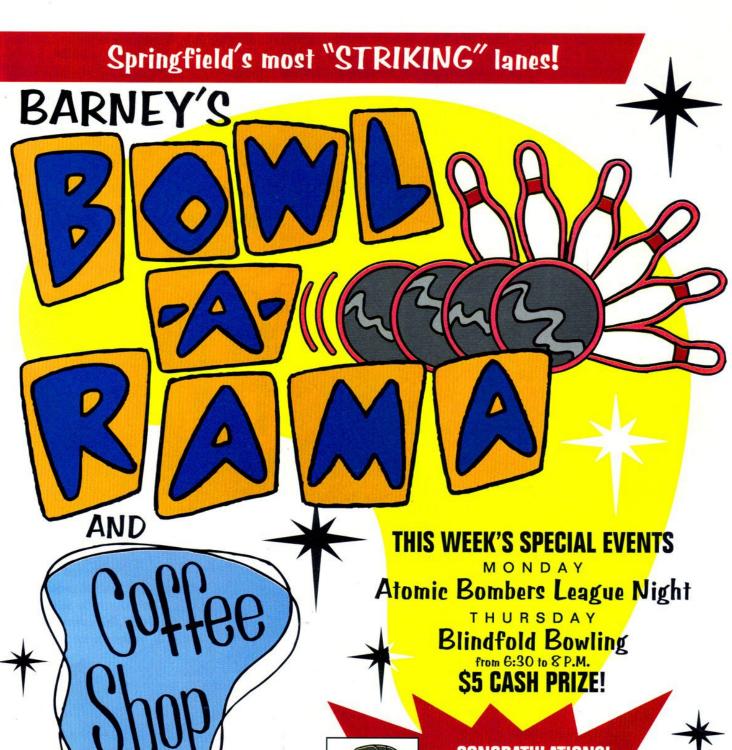
Awesome! Dude goes underground.



Tubular! Totally weird war.







All items guaranteed 100% deep fried!

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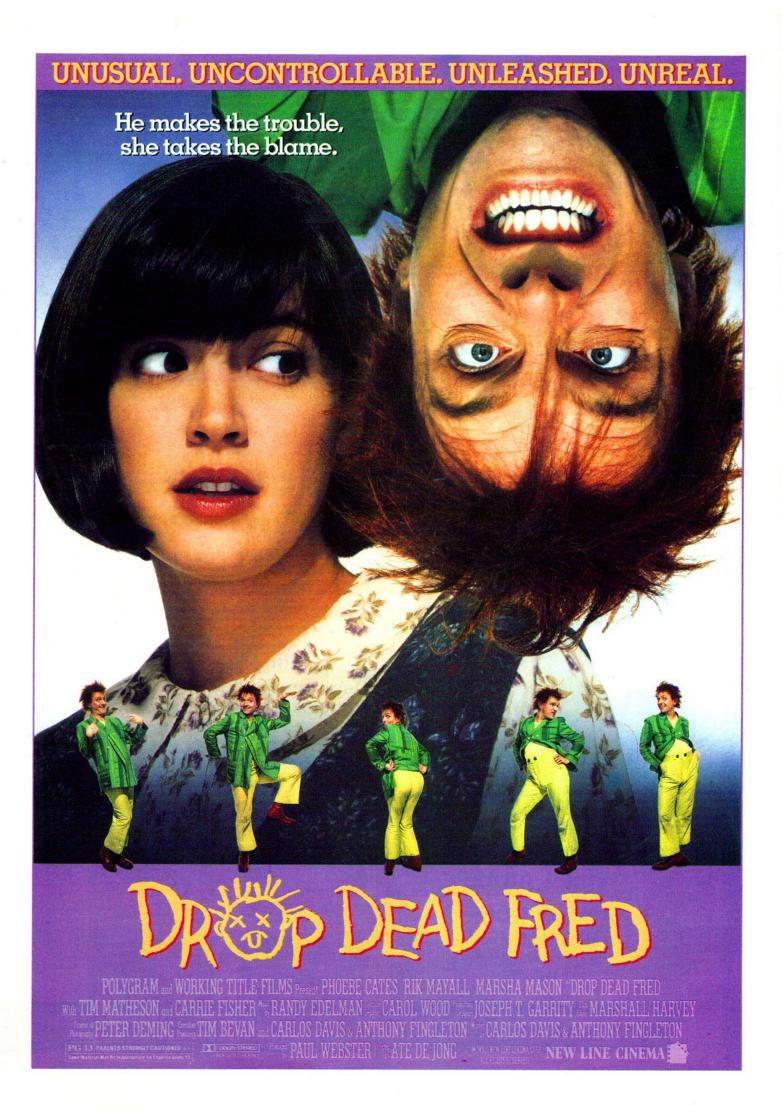


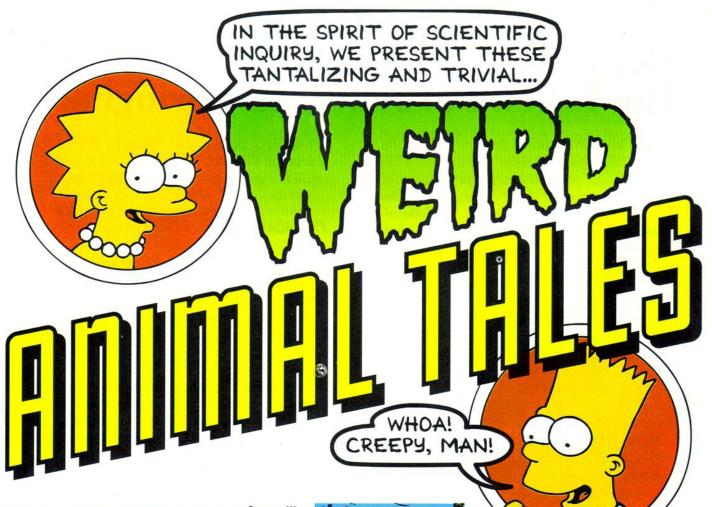
SUMMER LEAGUES FOR SULLEN TEENS NOW FORMING!



Ladies! Sign up for our UNAPPRECIATED HOUSEWIVES CLASSES

For very personal instructions, ask for Jacques





•There are only two poisonous mammals in the world— the platypus and the shrew.

•Sharks burp to regulate their depth underwater. Marine biologists are exploring the use of bicarbonates in corraling these ravenous fish, leaving our coastal waters safe for swimmers and surfers.



 Stringrays injure more people each year than any other fish.

•In the United States there are about 12 deaths per year by snakebite. In India there are about 15,000 to 20,000.

 When snakes constrict around their prey they aren't crushing them, but are suffocating them by not allowing them to breathe.



 Crocodiles cannot chew.
 If their prey is too large to swallow they have to tear it apart.

Sometimes they drag large animals and people below the surface until they drown. Then the crocodiles clamp down with their jaws on an arm or a leg. They use their powerful tails to spin in the water, ripping the arm or leg off.

•You can put an alligator to sleep by rubbing its stomach.

• Electric eels can discharge one hundred watts of electricity from 30 to 300 times a second. It will drown in 10 minutes if it can't breathe air.

 A tarantula bite is only mildly poisonous and not much more painful than a bee sting (but don't take our word for it). • During its linetime and average housecat will shed 90 pounds of hair;

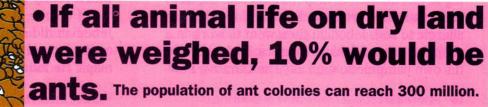
twice that much if you have black upholstery.

 A swarm of locusts can eat as much as 430 billion tons of vegetation at one sitting.

The pregnant armadillo can postpone birth for as long as three years.

•THE NORTH AMERICAN BIRD WITH THE TINIEST BRAIN AND BIGGEST AMBITION IS THE QUAIL.

Kangaroos cough when scared.





The Legend of Jebediah Springfield

Look at the city around you. Do you see the streets and the parks and the mini-malls and the nuclear power plant that employs so many of Springfield's citizens? None of this would have been possible without the wisdom, the determination, and the courage of one man: Jebediah Obadiah Zachariah Jedediah Springfield, our city's founder.

Jebediah was born in Axhandle, Virginia, in 1774, the twelfth of seventeen children. His father, Ned Springfield, was a farmer who introduced yellow Eurasian late-summer squash to Eastern Virginia. While yellow Eurasian late-summer squash no longer grows in that part of the country, the yellow Eurasian late-summer squash beetle, one of nature's hungriest pests, is still around to remind us of Mr. Springfield's foresight. Little is known of Jebediah's mother, Olive Springfield, except that she was very pretty and very busy.

Young Jebediah, like most children who grow up to be great heroes, was a hard-working student who always treated his

elders with much respect. He did his homework by candlelight and never imitated bodily noises in class or taped naughty pictures to the classroom film screen. Young Jebediah had one dream: to go west and explore the great American frontier. [Study Questions #1 and #2: To

IES! ALL LIE

Jebediah Springfield before leaving home

what does "West" refer? Why are the Dallas Cowboys in the NFC East?]

At thirteen, Jebediah had to leave school, which made him very sad. Searching for his calling in life, he tried to help his father on the farm with his twelve brothers, but found that he was allergic to soil. Jebediah then went to work in a shop that printed fishing almanacs. He later wrote his own pamphlets, such as "The Curative Powers of Cigar Smoke" and "How To Write Pamphlets for Fun and Profit," but in the end, he could not ignore his passion for the frontier ABAPPEL

THE ADVENTURES BEGIN

Jebediah's adventures began when he was hired by a mule skinner [Study Questions #3 and #4: Do mule skinners actually skin mules? Why or why not?] named "Buckskin" Calhoun. It was from Mr. Calhoun that Jebediah learned valuable lessons in wilderness survival. navigation and attire.

As part of "Buckskin's" mule team, and later as the head of his own party, Jebediah traveled through much unsettled territory, faced many dangers and performed a long list of important deeds. Wherever Jebediah went, it was with his trusted horse, which he treated like an equal for many years even though it had a problem rarely seen in horses, but often seen in students who stay up too late watching subversive television programs and can't keep their eyes open in class. [Study Question #5: What is nar-

colepsy WHO CARES?? ZZZZZZZZ Through his journeys, Jebediah became known as a friend of all Native Americans, except those few who had land that he wanted. The now-vanished Edsel tribe even had a special name for Jebediah. They called him Kovukurok. which means "strong one from afar."*

In 1804, Jebediah was set to take his place among the great explorers in American history. It was then that the expedition of Lewis and Springfield and Clark was hired by President Thomas Jefferson to scout the wild regions of the West. Unfortunately, Jebediah was thrown from his horse, Ol' Drowsy, while she was having a nightmare. He broke his tailbone and had to miss the expedition. As a result, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark today receive much of the credit that should belong to Jebediah Springfield. [Study Question #6: Were Lewis and Clark really so great?]

Of course, it doesn't really matter, because Jebediah did something far greater than ride a canoe around the country and draw a bunch of maps: He founded a fair and prosperous city. It

HEWN FROM COURAGE: THE HISTORY OF SPRINGFIELD

WAS HERE

was in 1821 that he first set foot in the area that would one day bear his name. He was leading band of 34 Dutch settlers in search of a nice place to live. Interestingly, the area's many charms were not clear to Jebediah upon his first visit. This is what he wrote at the time:

December 19, 1821—Colder than a [illegible smudge]. Horse fell asleep at sundown, had to make camp on a small hill surrounded by large swampy area. Many ants, mosquitos, and flies. Wooden shoes killing feet. Water tastes like vinegar, air smells of sulphur. Will move on immediately after sunrise. Sorry for lack of articles and pronouns.

—The Journal of Jebediah Springfield: Diary of a Frontier Hero

As the journal explains, Jebediah and his followers departed the next morning, carefully following many streams and river forks. Three days later, they arrived, exhausted, at the exact spot from which they had started. [Study Question #7: How does a compass work?]

Jebediah again pushed forward, but was forced to return the next day, for they had forgotten a covered wagon full of beef jerky. Then it snowed for two days. Several of the settlers took ill, and they had to wait for their recovery. They got better three days later, but then two of the wagons collided and it took a day to repair them. Then an old woman had a dream about a tornado, and the settlers refused to move for two more days. Finally, the brave Jebediah convinced them to proceed. Instead of following the rivers, he led his party over a steep mountain pass, through a number of switchbacks, across the floor of a deep canyon, and along some twisting bluffs. Again, they found themselves right where they had begun.

This time, however, Jebediah realized it was fate that kept bringing the group back to the same spot. "Why not start a settlement right here?" he thought to himself. It was then that Jebediah spoke the words that lived for decades as the town's unofficial motto: This, More or Less, Is the Place. [Study Question #8: What are some other possible town mottos for Springfield?] The people celebrated by burning the wagon full of beef jerky.

The next day, Jebediah declared himself the town's first mayor. The group then got together to decide on a name for their new home. There

were many suggestions, but in the end two names were tied with the most votes: Mudville and Blister City. In his first official act as mayor, Jebediah broke the tie and named the new town Springfield, in honor of his beloved father.



Actual re-enactment of a possible historical moment.

THE FATEFUL ENCOUNTER

Many heroic deeds helped build the legend of Jebediah Springfield. But one event set him apart from the run-of-the-mill legends, and that event involved a deadly bear. It happened in 1831, in the woods outside of town, and the only witness was 104-year-old Ian McTague, a local hermit. Mr. McTague described the scene to the townsfolk but nobody is sure exactly what he said. It was either "Jebediah Springfield killed a bear," or "Jebediah Springfield was killed by a bear," or "Jebediah Springfield killed by a raccoon. He was bare." We may never know the truth. In any case, Jebediah was never heard from again.

Scholar. Explorer. Leader. Slayer of hairy giants with razor-sharp claws. Jebediah Springfield was all of these things and more. Generations of Springfielders have looked to him as an example, and so can you. If you work hard, blindly obey all rules, and answer your study questions in the next 30 minutes, you, too, might be immortalized by a big iron statue in the center of town. Now, get cracking, young pioneers!

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I. Hang gliding deep into enemy territory is just the start. Past these gleaming turrets lie frozen wastes, mechanical jungles and gigantic battleships.



2. Beware of the burly machine gunners. Unleash your laser sword. Watch for the special item to get a super



3. Use your grappling hook to clamber up vertical walls, while fierce guards attack without mercy



4. On the top of a building, climb rickety scaffolding to build your stamina. Also collect a mechanical attack



5. Collect two drones and then you get the white mechanical panther to help in your assault, as he leaps at



6. Mad wolves lunge at you from deep in the arctic wastes. Here you can get a friendly droid to help you battle the



7. In the midst of angled scaffolding, mechanized defenders rock on ball bearings as they try to blast you into atoms.



8. Within the forest you fling yourself onto swinging vines and meet Amazon women. Don't fall-deadly piranha fish infest the waters below



9. Automatic cannon fire assaults you aboard the fleet cruiser of the evil empire. Soon you'll face its largest cannon-it's awesome



such mechanical minions of death, before you reach the inner sanctum of Number One

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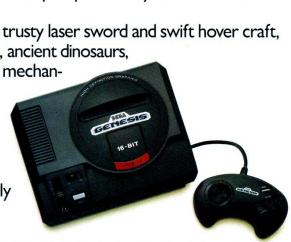
An evil Syndicate has violently overthrown Russia and is using their scientific and military might to take control of the world. You land your hang glider in an industrial town and begin your quest to defeat the evil mastermind. You use your incredible acrobatic skills as you leap onto moving platforms, climb to the top of I-beams with your grappling hook and slide with heels dug in down steep slopes while you evade razor sharp spokes.

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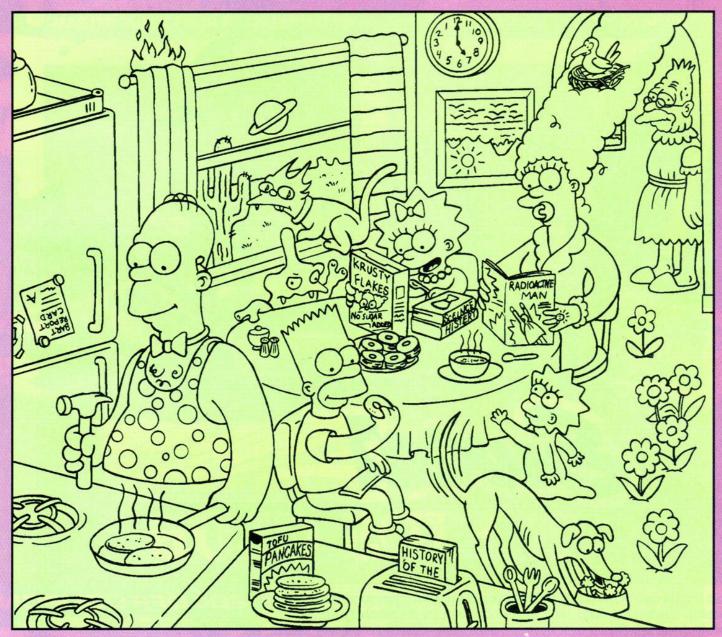
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At first glance it seems like just another ordinary day in Springfield. But somehow, subtly, strangely, something has changed. Is it due to fallout from the nuclear power plant? Have the aliens landed? Or has yet another cartoonist cracked under deadline pressure? Can you find the alterations? Test your powers of concentration with this page of...

CUTATION OBSERVATION



WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE? HERE'S WHAT'S WRONG; Homer is cooking (and he's making totu pancakes), his mouth isn't full of food, he is holding a hammer, there are the bottom had be head instead of two, the half on the half of the half of sand is a beard, is using a nearling and strangest of all, he's thinking about work and smilling. Bat has a beard, is using a nearling pants, and is eating to bow for a bowl of oatmes), which she half a sange's half is micking broccoll stad ending half half a pacifier, has three arms with as three mouth and a big shiny diamond ring on her hand, she's reading a bearing one half half a half a half a pacifier, has three arms with a before 10 o'clock. Patty and Selma she dameil, which half half a bear half a missing, and she's airling down instead of serving everyone else. Gramps is wearing a big shiny diamond ring on her hand, she's reading the krusty cereal box instead of studying. There's a "No Sugar Added" label on the cereal box. Dan Quayle is vice president of the United States. The titled States. The titled States. The titled she wand is reading the krusty cereal box instead of studying. There's a "No Sugar Added" label on the cereal box may be said to the the window even though there's a "No Sugar Added" label down and there's an "No none state and is not asting, in the fridge is two days out of date. Snowball is leaving through the window even though there's a desert outsine have vertical stripes on one side and nonexat Salum is in the sky. The rumbers on the report card. The online on fire, the skin man the sky tinn window and shall be seen the rumbers on the clock go sround backwards. The painting on the wall is upside down. Flowers are growing out of the floor. There's a book in the toaster. The donuts on the tably times.

SUMMER 1991 SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED 35



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MANUFACTURER COUPON EXPIRES NOV. 30, 1991



CHAPTER 2:

SO YOU'RE LATE-SO WHAT?

DEALING WITH THE SYSTEM'S INABILITY TO COMPREHEND THIS UTTERLY NATURAL BEHAVIOR

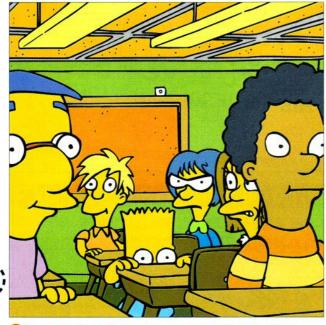
SNEAKING INTO CLASS: A BEGINNER'S GUIDE MASTER THESE FOUR FIELD-TESTED TECHNIQUES AND FEAR DETENTION NO MORE!



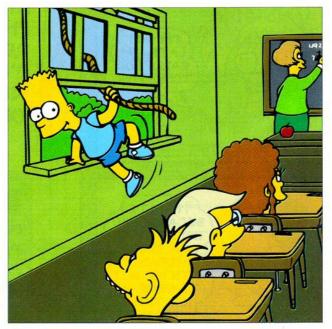
1 WEAR CLOTHING THAT BLENDS INTO BACK-GROUND, TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EXISTING COVER.



2 HAVE YOUR FRIENDS CREATE A DIVERSION.



3 CRAWL TO YOUR SEAT, LET YOUR HEAD RISE SLOWLY INTO VIEW.



USE AN ALTERNATE ENTRANCE.

EXCUSES, EXCUSES

FALLBACK PLOYS IN CASE OF CAPTURE

VERBAL MANEUVERING

(NOTE: IN FACE-TO-FACE CONFRONTATIONS, ATTITUDE IS KEY; MEMORIZE THE FOLLOWING SO YOU CAN RESPOND TO CHALLENGES QUICKLY & CONFIDENTLY.)









FOR ADVANCED STUDENTS

STRUCTURE THE CONTENTS TO ALLAY SUSPICIONS ABOUT ITS AUTHENTICITY.

DEAR MS. KRABAPPEL,

PLEASE EXCUSE BART'S ABSENCE YESTERDAY. HE WAS SICK.

marge dimpson

P.S. I AM DICTATING THIS
NOTE TO BART BECAUSE
MY EYES ARE HEAVILY
BANDAGED DUE TO A FREAK
KITCHEN ACCIDENT. HOWEVER,
I'M SURE I'LL BE FULLY
RECOVERED BY THE NEXT
TIME I SEE YOU AND WILL
NOT WISH TO BE REMINDED
OF THIS GRUESOME INCIDENT.

REMEMBER THE 3 P's

PROPER EXECUTION REQUIRES PRE-PLANNING, PRACTICE, AND PREPARATION.

Marge Limpson Mari

CLIP AND KEEP IN NOTEBOOK FOR EASY REFERENCE





1. Garfield

2. The First Amendment

3. Big ol' gnarly tattoos of flaming skulls

4. "Stairway to Heaven"

5. Extra-spicy hickory-smoked beef jerky

- 6. Erich von Däniken's Chariots of the Gods?
- 7. Festival seating
- 8. Susan Dey
- 9. Baby humans

that have been raised by wolves

10. The cool way a busload of kids eating corn nuts smells

11. Super-long, intense guitar riffs played with a wah-wah pedal

- 12. Bandanas on dogs
- 13. Tape hiss
- 14. Totally spacing out and forgetting where the bus is parked
- 15. Space-age neo-psychedelic headbanger music



16. Grinding all four gears going up a killer incline

17. 20-minute drum solos

18. Bizarre conspiracy theories involving the military and U.F.O.'s

- 19. Foam rubber
- 20. Letting your freak flag fly
- 21. Giving the thumbs-up sign to other bus drivers

22. Politically disenfranchised white male suburban

hell-raisers

23. The Miranda Decision

24. 42" woofers

25. Poems about the universe

26. Slowing down to rubberneck some roadside disaster

27. Pinball

28. Vinyl records

29. Double-dipped, deep-fat-fried corn dogs

30. Underground comix

31. That totally intense look you get on your face when you're

playing "Wrathchild" on air guitar

32. Passive-aggressive babes of the female persuasion

33. Buzz Cola with twice the sugar, twice the caffeine

34. Air fresheners shaped like trees that really smell like trees

35. Mood rings

36. Onion rings

HEETOS 37. The mesh thing you put on the seat that keeps your butt from getting clammy

38. Finding an unopened bag of

Cheetos under a bus seat

- 39. Chain-link fencing
- 40. "Inna Gadda Da Vida"

40 SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED **SUMMER 1991**



Memory Bank Calculator

SELL 14 ITEMS

Nikko R/C Vehicle SELL 21 ITEMS

SELL 14 ITEN



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SART AND LISA'S SCHOOL NEWSPAPER INSIDE: SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED

OUTTA HERE, MAN!

BART THE THIEF! WHAT'S HIS EXCUSE THIS TIME, ANYWAY?



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BLEEDING GUMS MURPHY
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CONTINUES ON
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VOLUME 1, NUMBER 3

OUR MOTTO: "IF IT'S TOO LOUD, YOU'RE TOO OLD"

FALL 1991

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Insiders' secrets, exclusive previews and lid-bustin' breakthroughs.

IN THE NEWS 4

Running the gamut from Art to Zappa. with Baghdad Betty. Bart. Buster et al., alongside.

JUNK MAIL 9

We don't want to sermonize, but we know some folks who do.

D'OH! IT'S THE VOICE OF HOMER 14

"Behind the Scenes" with Dan Castellaneta, who also plays Krusty the Clown, Barney the barfly, Grampa Simpson, Mayor Diamond Joe Quimby and many, many more.

TUESDAY IS BLUESDAY AT THE JAZZ HOLE 18

Management assumes no responsibility for depression, marital breakup or suicide as a result of listening to Bleeding Gums Murphy.

SPRINGFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS INSERT

Springfield's most-trusted news source.

HOMER'S JOB FILE 22

The shocking truth behind the lazy slob.

WHAT'S YOUR EXCUSE?.....25

The proverbial cookie jar just became less—than—proverbial. Help Bart talk his way out of this one.

THE FUNNIES.....26

Springfield's second-most trusted news source.

SCHOOL SURVIVAL HANDBOOK 31

Clip and save, man. You're going to need it.

SECRET HAND CODES.....33

The teacher has you in her sights. The geek in the back row thinks he's the CIA. Here's a way around both of them...and everybody else.

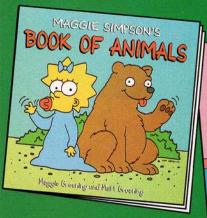
LISA'S TOP 40 36

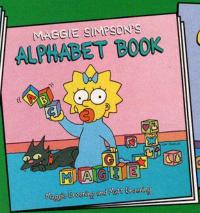
She's smart, she's sweet, she's sensitive...but don't hold that against her.



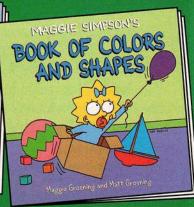


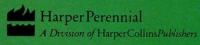
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Stop the presses! Bart Simpson is preg-

nant! Again! Well, actually, Nancy Cartwright, the voice of Bart, is due to give birth to her second child. By the time you read this, the baby probably will have arrived. We'll pass along all vital info in an upcoming issue....

Another unpredictable season of The Simpsons is upon us, with 26 new shows headed our way...

Watch for an all-star lineup of major leaguers playing for the Springfield nuclear power plant's baseball team,

> including Steve Sax, Wade Boggs, Don Mattingly, Jose

Canseco, Darryl Strawberry, Ken Griffey, Jr., Mike Scioscia, Ozzie Smith and Roger Clemens....Sportsmania continues in another episode with Magic Johnson playing himself....

More guests on the show include Sting, Steve Allen, Jon Lovitz, Joe Mantegna, Aerosmith and Saturday Night Live's Phil Hartman....

Other peculiar plots in the works: The family finally causes Marge to flip out once and for all...Burns sells the power plant to foreign businessmen...Mrs. Krabappel falls in love...Lisa goes bad...we finally learn why Krusty the Clown

is laughing on the outside but crying on the inside...Itchy blows Scratchy's head off again and again... Homer gets a job at the Kwik-E-Mart...We meet Apu's girlfriend... Lisa gets a pony...Moe the bartender sings...the power plant has a meltdown...Bart gets the entire town howling for his head again...Homer goes crazy.... Bart convinces Rod and Todd Flanders that he is God

Dan Castellaneta, the voice of Homer, continues to appear in the Hollywood stage production of American Splendor, based on the work of cartoon-writer Harvey Pekar

Harry Shearer, who seems to be the voice of almost half the characters on The Simpsons, continues

host the weekly Le Show, an eclectic hour-long mix of satire and music. Le Show originates in the studios of KCRW-FM in Santa Monica, and is heard on 40 stations nationwide. Check your local listings...

You can also check out Shearer's "Man Bites Town" column in the Sunday Los Angeles Times Magazine....

After the double-platinum worldwide smash The Simpsons Sing the Blues album, who can be surprised to learn a second album is in the works...Simpsons creator Matt Groening wants to call it The Simpsons Surfedelic Freak Out Party, but no doubt cooler heads will prevail....

Leisure and Literature Department: Look for Bart Simpson's Escape from Camp Deadly Nintendo Gameboy game in the stores now, and help Bart—with assistance from Lisa—elude such summer camp horrors as escaped

mental patient Madman Mort, giant killer hornets, and liver pizza in the mess hall...Due next month in finer bookstores is The Simpsons Uncensored Family Album, featuring candid pix and humiliating

memorabilia...For the tots, check out Maggie Simpson's Book of Colors and Shapes, Maggie Simpson's Alphabet Book, Maggie Simpson's Counting Book, and Maggie Simpson's Book of Animals, all by Maggie Groening with her brother Matt...The Simpsons 1992 Fun Calendar includes Lisa Simpson's Bart-O-Matic, the "Ultimate Big Brother Repellent," the Mysterious World of Bowling Slang, Marge Simpson's Wide World of Hairdos, and the Simpsons' School

Simpsons Gourmet Department: When in England, be sure to gobble down a loaf or two of Bart's

Wrap bread...and complete your English meal with the yummy mini-cheese balls known as Bart's Boulders...If cheeseflavored corn snacks obsess you, head for New Zealand, where Bart Simpson Scrunchies are sold.



FALL 1991

to



BART AND BAGHDAD BETTY The Story Behind the Story Behind the Story

The day before the January 15 United Nations deadline for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait, the New York *Times* reported on its editorial page about a radio broadcaster for the Iraqi "Voice of Peace." U.S. soldiers called her "Baghdad Betty."

According to the *Times*, Betty said, "G.I., you should be home. While you're away, movie stars are taking your women. Robert Redford is dating your girlfriend. Tom Selleck is kissing your lady. Bart Simpson is making love to your wife."

The *Times* concluded: "Baghdad Betty is shaking the G.I.'s all right—with laughter."

Four months later EXTRA! magazine, published by the organization Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting (FAIR), under the headline "Stories the Media Loved-Except They Aren't True," wrote "But the joke was on the Times. The story it gleefully reported as fact was actually a joke Johnny Carson told on the Tonight Show, August 22, 1990. On the January 31 Tonight Show, Carson said that his joke had been reported as a fact on CNN, Entertainment Tonight, NBC's Garrick Utley's Yearend Wrap Up and Time magazine's January 21, 1991 issue."

Carson's original joke ran like this: "Iraq is sending out propaganda over the radio like Tokyo Rose did in World War II. But they just don't know enough about American culture to pull it off. Yesterday, Iraqi radio said 'Attention American troops. While you are stuck in the desolate Saudi desert, your girlfriend is dating handsome American movie star Homer Simpson."

Rosemary Shields, Manager of the *Times'* Editorial Department, told *Simpsons Illustrated* that both the Pentagon and Armed Forces

Radio, when questioned by the *Times*, confirmed Betty's "reference" to Bart.

Shields added that she was not surprised this mistake spread so widely. "Media feeds off the media," she said. "It happens all the time. We run a story, then the other media pick the story up and run with it. That is why we check our facts so carefully." Despite the inaccuracy of the story, however, the *Times* still has not received a single letter criticizing the accuracy of its editorial.



Former First Family meets future
First Family at a Pediatric AIDS Foundation fundraiser

Sam Jones/3D & C

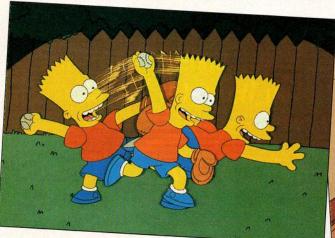
IN THE NEWS

THE SIMPSONS CEL OUT

Last June the New York auction house Christie's sold more than two dozen animation cels from *The Simpsons* for a total of \$117, 920. The proceeds went to AIDS Project Los Angeles.

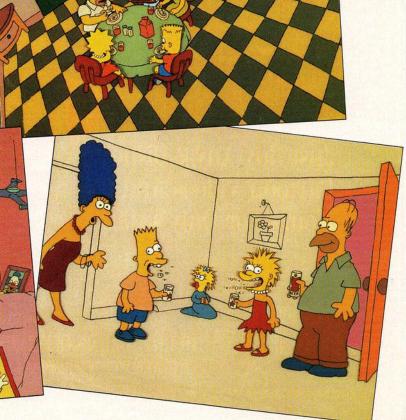
Joshua Arfer, the head of Christie's collectibles sales, said individual cels sold at prices between \$3,500 to \$24,000, exceeding by far the pre-sale estimate of \$700 to \$2,000. "There was tremendous interest not only among people who wanted to buy, but also among people just coming to look," he said. "Everyone was enjoying themselves remembering the episodes and what happened in them."

Ross Krasnow of North Bay Village, FL, came to do more than look. His parents paid \$4,950 for "Bart's Messy Room," and Krasnow, age nine, became the show's youngest buyer.



Clockwise from top: Cover of catalog (\$24,000), Family Breakfast (\$4,070), Burping Contest (\$6,050), Bart's Messy Room (\$4,950), Bart Throws a Baseball (\$7,920)

8



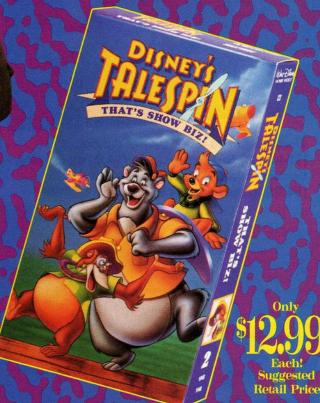
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IMPSONS

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IN THE NEWS



Seattle environmental artist Buster Simpson

UNRELATED SIMPSONS IN THE NEWS

Add the names of Martha Simpson and Buster Simpson to the growing list of Simpsons who have distinguished themselves in recent months.

Los Angeles television station KNBC reported in June that Martha Simpson, age 90, had been awarded an honorary diploma by Fontana (California) High School.

As a child growing up on the plains of New Mexico she never finished high school-but she never stopped learning, either, and eventually went to work as a missionary in China.

As for Buster Simpson, he's a sculptor living in the Pacific Northwest. His recent exhibit at the Seattle Art Museum included his project When the Tide Is Out the Table

In 1984, Simpson began to cast a set of vitreous plates and placed

IN LIKE BART

The Roper Organization recently conducted a nationwide survey to determine what's "in" and what's "out." The Simpson family is "in" according to 74 percent of those polled, placing them fourth on the list behind environmentalism, safe sex and patriotism.

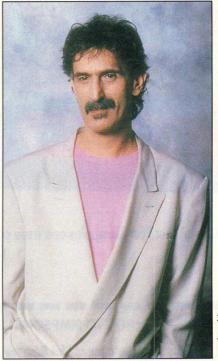
them at various sewage outfalls on Puget Sound. As the tide came in and out, pollutants in the water formed a hideous glaze on their surfaces.

It's clear that Buster could just as easily have conducted his work near the Springfield Nuclear Power Plant.

FAMILY MAN

In the July issue of Interview magazine, composer, recording artist, writer and filmmaker Frank Zappa was one of many celebrities interviewed on the subject of the family.

Zappa's response: "The idea of family is more than reproduction yielding offspring, with uniform housing for the batch....



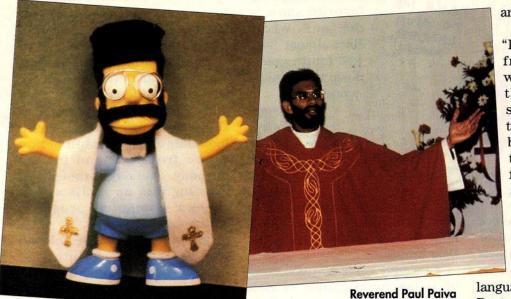
Frank Zappa

"We have certain traditions that pop up every once in a while. The most recent new tradition is that every Thursday at eight o'clock my youngest daughter, Diva, who is eleven, and I have a date: We watch The Simpsons together. And everything literally stops. I look at Homer when he's sleeping, with that drool coming out the side of his mouth, and I go, 'That's me!'"



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MORALITY SPOKEN HERE

Dear Editor.

I am a minister of a church and I am quite aware that people in general often complain that the Sunday morning sermon is boring and not relevant to everyday life. So, I always try to see certain popular movies and TV shows so that I can refer to them in my sermons.

When I saw my first episode of *The Simpsons* shortly after it began to be aired on TV, I was so impressed that I decided to try it out in my very next sermon. It happened to be a children's service,

with about 320 elementary-school kids in attendance. When I asked them how many of them had seen *The Simpsons* last week, I was amazed that about 90 percent of them were madly waving their hands. Needless to say, not one of them fell asleep during the service! And, I would guess that 100 percent of them remembered the sermon.

Palmdale, CA

I was still in seventh heaven over being able to communicate with these youth (something very hard to do these days, as any Simpsons viewer is quite aware) when my bliss was shattered by a few comments from some parents after the service. They were appalled that I would refer to such a despicable show in which the main character regularly spouts off such vulgar language. These parents warned me that I was indirectly encouraging their children to be foul-mouthed

and to misbehave.

I simply asked these parents, "Have you seen an episode from start to finish?" to which they had to admit they hadn't. Feeling quite secure in my stand, I hinted to them that they had no business degrading a show they hadn't seen. The following Sunday, I spoke about the show again. I told the congregation that The Simpsons is a wonderful show because it almost always contains a powerful moral message. The harsh

language and devious behavior of Bart are things the majority of kids are doing anyway, whether openly or not. I suggested that perhaps those who have seen the show from start to finish and are

> Angela Rodriguez Las Vegas, NV





Irene Schreiman Southfield, MI

M

positive and moral influence on our society today. My favorite show is the one where Bart almost flunked fourth grade. Keep up the good work!

—Reverend Paul Paiva, Roman Catholic Priest, St. Mary's Church, Palmdale, CA What do you think of me, a great grandmother whose age will remain secret, spending my time creating "Bart Art" such as the enclosed?

—Irene Schreiman Southfield, MI

BART BITS

Dear Editor:

Enclosed is a print of Bart Simpson that I created with my IBM-compatible computer. I am a big fan of The Simpsons. Last December I received a licensed bendable Bart Simpson action figure from a friend for my birthday. One day, I thought of drawing him up in 3D with a special computer program, AutoCad, at work. I took measurements from the doll and transferred them into my computer. It took about two to three days to complete the wire frame. With the wire frame I rendered him at 640x480

ART IS AGELESS

Dear Editor:

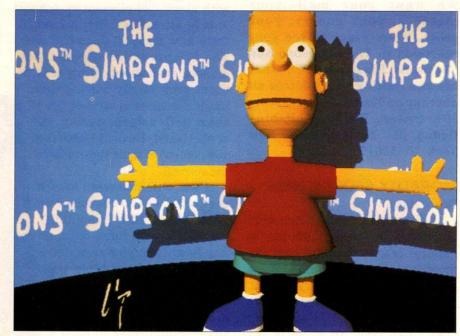
I recently came across a copy of your publication which contained a picture of Bart Simpson drawn by a youngster.

still upset are those who are not able to cope with their own or others' imperfections, while those who enjoy the show are able to see goodness in all people, and can learn to forgive themselves and others when we occasionally do things against our good nature.

A few weeks after that sermon, several parents came up to me and thanked me for introducing them to *The Simpsons*. Some even apologized for pre-judging the show. Most of them still don't let their youngest kids watch the show alone; the parents have to be present. How ingenious! What better way to have some family togetherness, be instructed by a good moral lesson, and enjoy quality comedy to boot!

Contrary to what some may believe, I am convinced *The Simpsons* is a much-needed

Hung Tran Portland, OR









Melissa Owlett







Will Hetzel





Kevin Kilcommons

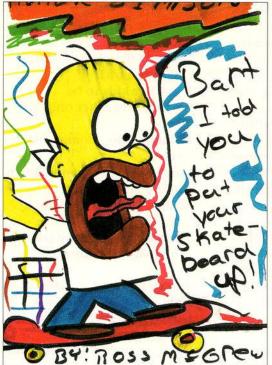


Matt Talbott Dana Koffenberger

10 SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED

Jason Stine

J U N K M A I L



Ross McGrew Ft. Smith, AK

resolution. Then I shot a slide and made prints from it. There are many Bart Simpson fans at work and they loved the prints....

I can't wait to get the upcoming issue of *Simpsons Illustrated*. Cool magazine, man.

—Hung Tran Portland, OR

Quinton Jobb

TARA'S BLUES

Dear Editor:

I just wanted to let you know that because of Lisa on *The Simpsons*, my daughter Tara has decided to play the saxophone. So if anybody ever says *The Simpsons* has no redeeming value you can use

Quinton Jobb

this example. Tara has been taking saxophone lessons since October and really enjoys it. She is in the 5th grade, and is 10 years old.

> —Roberta Whitefield Imperial Beach, CA

SOUNDS FAMILIAR

Dear Editor:

A funny thing happened to my family last Sunday evening. Not only was this a direct result of *The Simpsons*, but it would probably make a terrific episode for your show.

Let me begin by saying the six of us in my family are all avid Simpsons fans (wonderful for you, unfortunate for us). We

were coming home from my

children's grandparents' home. My husband stopped the car at the end of our very steep driveway and my four children and I got out of the car. Then my eight-year-old son began to have tantrum-we were five minutes late for The Simpsons! This the worst was possible thing that could happen. He banged his fists on the car and cried, "I'm missing The Simpsons!" As he threatened to scratch the car with a paper clip, my husband

jumped out to discipline him and prevent him from doing damage. At that instant, my oldest son (age 13) yelled, "Daddy, the car's rolling!" Still in gear, the car rolled down the driveway, with my husband trying in vain to get back in and apply the brakes. Thank God my husband got away with his life! His clothes, however, did not hold up too well. His shirt was torn open, the buttons popped off. His slacks were shredded, his thighs bruised, his knees bloody. He was green all over from having been forced against a retaining wall covered with moss. He was, needless to say, very shaken up, but alive.

When the shock wore off, he went to examine the car. Still in

Tara Whitefield Imperial Beach, CA









J U N K M A I L



Last Halloween, Gordon Gore and a group of co-workers at Security Pacific Automation in Seattle entered their company's pumpkin-carving contest with the Simpsons ensemble pictured above. Plans for this year remain a secret.

gear, with its lights still on also, the car sat at the bottom of the driveway. It had hit the garage door and the concrete retaining wall. The car was a wreck!

By the time we had all calmed down enough to try to relax, my son, who originally had the tantrum, had missed the entire show!

Not only do my children wear their Simpsons shirts, they now must ride in our smashed up car. Everyone calls it "The Simpsons Car."

So now we have a car that can no longer be used in the evening as the headlights are messed up, and my children can rest assured that they won't miss *The Simpsons* again since our car must be in before dark!

—Paula F. Gelman The Bronx, NY

QUICK, DIAL 9-1-1!

Yo Krustaceans!

I love your mag! I have one question for you. It's about the Krusty the Clown comic on page 36 of the premiere issue of Simpsons Illustrated. Sideshow Bob was there I thought he was in jail. Or is he out

on bail?

Please explain.

—Jeremy Spring Aloha, OR

Sorry for the confusion, Jere. We forgot to mention that this story took place in Springfield-2, an alternate reality in which Bob is participating in a work-release program.

YO...WORD UP!

Dear Editor:

I really love *The Simpsons*. It's my favorite show. I get really mad if I miss what Bart has to write on the board or if I miss the couch scene at the end of the theme song. Anyway, I decided to write a little rap about the Simpsons.

Bart is radical. Bart is cool
"Don't have a cow" is the
most important rule.
Lisa is the smart one.
Lisa gets "A's."
Plays her sax
throughout the
days.

Maggie sucks her pacifier. Maggie

falls down.
Watches T.V., likes Krusty
the Clown.
Marge is the painter. Marge
likes to bowl.
Raise her kids to be

successful is her only goal.

Homer is lazy. Homer just can't... Stop causing accidents down

at the power plant. Santa's Little Helper and Snowball II...

The weirdest looking pair anybody ever drew.

You've just read a verse about my favorite show. Homer, Marge, Bart, Lisa, and Maggie you all know. So if you wanna join in on all

the fun, Get to the set before it's over and done.

> —Talisman Blackwood Otsego, MI

MISTAKEN IDENTITY

Dear Editor:

Did you notice the resemblance to Homer in the last frame of the "Krusty the Clown" strip in issue #1? Was it a coincidence or is there a secret kinship somewhere down

Brian Daggett
Tipton, ID

J U N K M R I L

Simpsons Illustrated is wonderful, a true classic. I do hope it is to be a long-lived magazine.

I've been through the first issue a dozen times. It is perfect. It is not a cheap shot to cash in and make a quick killing. I've never looked forward to a new issue of a magazine since I got hooked on *Mad* magazine twenty years ago.

—Robert Tucker Panama City, FL

Resemblance? Hmm...read this issue's Behind the Scenes article for more insight.

ODE TO BART

There once was a kid named Bart.

He liked to draw "WALL ART."

He was a skateboard freak who made little girls shriek.

When Lisa plays her sax and makes his ears ache, He goes downstairs and eats Frosty Krusty Flakes.

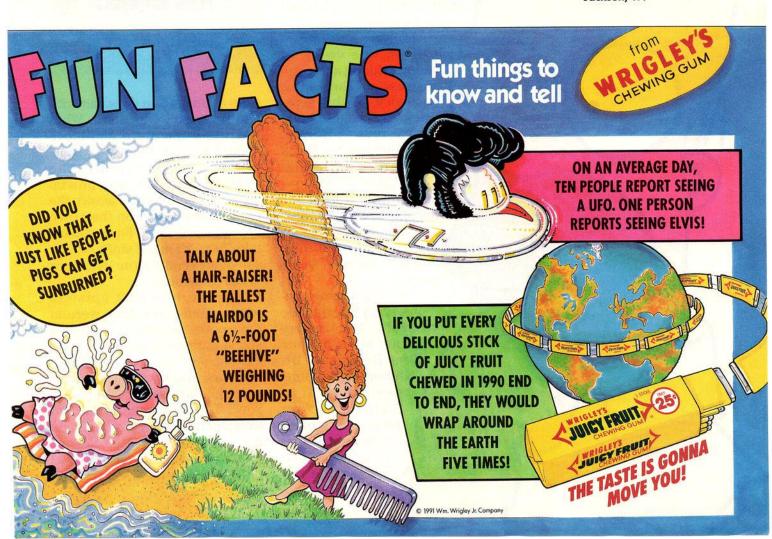
Bart is always playing his favorite video game "Escape from Grandma's House," Except when he's home watching Itchy and Scratchy the wild cat and mouse.

And last, but not least, he's a rude crude righteous dude.

> —Dan McDonald Blackville, N.B., Canada



Leonard Bruce Jackson, TN



113THE

In a basement studio at the Daryl F. Zanuck Theater on the Twentieth Century Fox lot in Los

Angeles, the cast of The Simpsons is recording "Lisa the Greek," an upcoming episode.

In an early scene, Homer is on the phone to Moe the bartender, placing a bet on Miami to beat Cincinnati in an NFL game. Moe quickly takes Homer's action, then picks up a call on his other line.

It's Krusty the Clown calling in his pick of the day.

Dan Castellaneta, the voice of both Homer and Krusty (as well as Barney Gumbel and assorted minor characters), says he never shifts directly from one voice to another during a recording session. But in this sequence, all that separates Castellaneta's two characters is a brief interjection by Hank Azaria, the voice of Moe. Castellaneta's jump from Homer's nervous mumble to Krusty's sandpaper-voiced confidence in roughly 2.6 seconds-comes off seamlessly.

"He's so chameleonic," says Harry Shearer, the voice of C. Montgomery Burns, news anchor Kent Brockman, Dr. Hibbert and countless other non-Simpsons. "You hear the words 'accurate' and 'precise' used to describe the

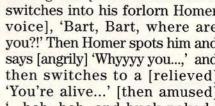
Dan Castellaneta, who plays Homer, **Barney and Krusty, speaks** his mind.

By Ted Brock

sorts of things Dan does, but with him it doesn't end there. What impresses me more and more about him is his fluidity."

Castellaneta credits the show's writing staff with providing him and the other actors the opportunity to call on their own special vocal skills. For instance, take Homer's mood shifts, which sometimes come more than once in the same line.

"There was that episode where Homer and Bart were in the woods," he recalls, "and they got separated and Homer was calling out [here Castellaneta switches into his forlorn Homer voice], 'Bart, Bart, where are you?!' Then Homer spots him and says [angrily] 'Whyyyy you...,' and then switches to a [relieved] 'You're alive...' [then amused] "...heh, heh, and buck naked."



VOICE OF HOMER

"Or the time when he was going after Bart... 'Why you little...' and then all of a sudden saw a chocolate donut and said, 'Mmmmm, chocolate."

Castellaneta's praise for The Simpsons' writers doesn't end with their ear for subtle mood shifts.

"They have created such a rich world, it's unfathomable," he says. "They're just beginning to tap into the possibilities of what they can do with it.

"They've made a town full of characters. It's like an old radio show with a whole array of characters who can come in and out."

Nancy Cartwright, the voice of Bart, has worked with Castellaneta since the late 1980s when they were cast members on Fox Television's The Tracey Ullman Show. Cartwright says her main

> "The writers have created such a rich world, it's unfathomable. They're just beginning to tap into the possibilities."

goal while playing opposite him is "to get through a session without wetting my pants."

Cartwright says she still can't get over Castellaneta's ability to improvise with anyone, in any situation, on any topic. So it comes as no surprise to learn that his improv training-in fact his main theater experience prior to joining the Ullman castwas a four-and-ahalf-year stint with The Second City, the Chicago-based revue that was the training ground for John Belushi, Martin Short, Larraine Newman and John Candy,

Castellaneta grew up in Oak Park, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago.

among others.

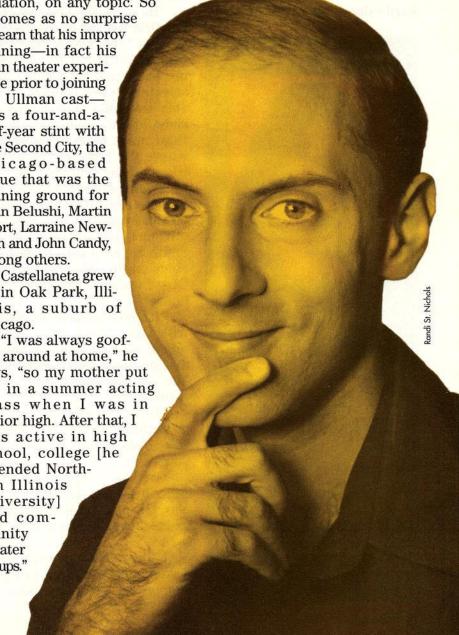
ing around at home," he says, "so my mother put me in a summer acting class when I was in junior high. After that, I was active in high school, college [he

ern Illinois University] and community theater

groups."

attended North-

He landed the Tracey Ullman Show job after Ullman herself saw him with The Second City.



BEHIND THE SCENES

Later, when *The Simpsons* was about to debut as a short feature on the program, Castellaneta and Julie Kavner, another Ullman regular, were chosen to play Homer and Marge.

Castellaneta recalls his earliest notion of how Homer would sound: "Matt [Groening, creator of *The Simpsons*] was there, and he showed me the Homer character. I looked at Homer and fooled around with kind of a Walter Matthau voice and went from there. So originally, Homer's voice was a little lower than it is now. It got more in the throat as it went along.

"Earlier, Homer was more hard-edged. Lisa was brattier.

JULIE KAVNER andi St. Nichols "I'll never forget Dan saying to me, 11'm always going to look at you and think, 'This woman cost me a million dollars.""

They softened her. Bart got more bratty. Originally, he was more put-upon."

So what is Castellaneta's sense of Homer, as *The Simpsons* enters its third season in prime time? "He's the most fallible character on the show. He has the most faults. Bart is bratty, but he's more sure of himself than his dad. Homer's not smart, like Lisa. He's not conscientious, like Marge. So they [his family] fill in where he's lacking. He's the reverse of a patriarch."

Castellaneta says his favorite episode is "Lisa's Substitute," in which Lisa falls in love with her substitute teacher.

"He was Lisa's first real crush, her first real male role model," he says. "That shook her view of Homer. At the end, he had to win her back, and he became more sensitive to her feelings. It was very touching, and it took the show into an area that's more real than most television series, where the parents are always wise and have minimal faults."

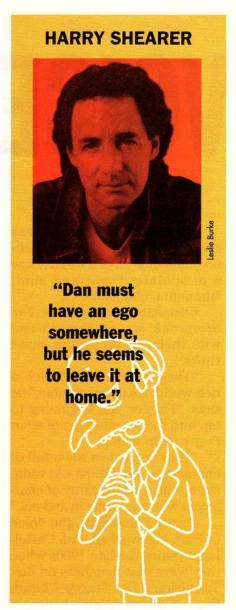
Twenty-six-year-old Yeardley Smith's real-life voice evokes instant images of Lisa Simpson. ("When I pick up my telephone," Smith says, "a lot of times the voice on the other end will say, 'May I speak to the lady of the house?'")

"It's nice to have an episode with Dan," Smith adds. "I think one of the real joys of Homer is that he has a really good heart. You can see that in Dan's facial expressions.

"I really can't say enough good things about Dan. At first, he's so shy, but then he just pulls you in."

Or, as Harry Shearer describes Castellaneta's personality, "He must have an ego somewhere, but he seems to leave it at home."

Nancy Cartwright thinks Castellaneta's interpretation of Homer and his other characters



makes him one of a kind in *The Simpsons'* company of actors.

"Dan takes on the essence of the characters he plays," she says. "The writers, the producers and Matt give him free reign. For instance, Dan and Harry might do nine or ten takes of a dialogue between Homer and Burns. A lot of it might be ad lib. I don't know how the producers decide which one to use. I'm just glad I don't have to make the choice."

As the "Lisa the Greek" episode begins, Homer, surrounded by his favorite high-cholesterol snack treats, settles into the family couch. Shearer,

BEHIND THE SCENES

as announcer Bret Gunsilman, welcomes his audience to "six hours of pro-football action."

Homer, his eyes fixed on the TV, reaches for the only thing holding him back and says: "Byebye belt."

After five takes of this scene, the three men directing the episode—Groening, director Mike Reese and producer Jay Kogen—are satisfied with what the actors have given them...well, almost.

Groening wants Castellaneta's reading of "Bye-bye belt" to be "even more dismissive," to emphasize the animated gesture viewers will see on the screen.

The tape rolls. Castellaneta

NANCY CARTWRIGHT "Dan and **Harry might** do nine or en takes on a dialogue.... I'm glad I don't have to make the choice."

reads: "Bye-byyyyyyyye belt...Bye-bye, belt...Bye-bye BELT!...Bye...bye... belt...BYE-BYE BELT...."

Each of his dozen or so interpretations is distinctly different from the others, and he accompanies each with a new gesture. Arms outstretched in a nearyawn...head cocked and lips pursed...waist rotating in a grunting struggle to remove an imaginary belt...fists clenched, hands pumping, à la Popeye one second, King Kong the next.

Hank Azaria, the voice of Moe, Chief Wiggum and Apu, among others, says, "Physically, Dan gets into it. He doesn't mind looking really foolish to make the take work really well."

Castellaneta points out that because *The Simpsons* combines the real world and the cartoon world, the directors want more takes than on a usual cartoon show. Generally, that means three or four, but he says they've asked for as many as 20.

"So that's why we move around," he says. "One time when I was working with Julie [Kavner, the voice of Marge] on *Tracey Ullman*, and I've done live shows with Nancy and Yeardley, so we know each other....One time, right in the middle of taping, Julie went up to Nancy and started choking her."

Kavner says the thing she appreciates most about playing Castellaneta's TV wife is his innocence, a kind of unworldliness. To Kavner, he has a basic sweetness that comes out in all the characters he plays.

Her favorite moment in the series came during "Bart Gets Hit By a Car," the episode in which Homer hires ambulance-chasing attorney Lionel Hutz, who puts together a million-dollar lawsuit against C. Montgomery Burns after Burns's car knocks Bart off his skateboard. In the end, Marge will have none of it and eventu-

YEARDLEY SMITH



"I think one of the real joys of Homer is that he has a really good heart. You can see that in Dan's facial expressions."

ally foils the scheme.

Kavner says, "I'll never forget Dan saying to me, 'I'm always going to look at you and think, 'This woman cost me a million dollars."

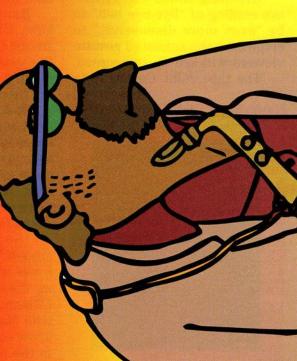
Like the other actors, Kavner notes the harmony between Castellaneta's acting and the writers' ability to provide him with material to match it.

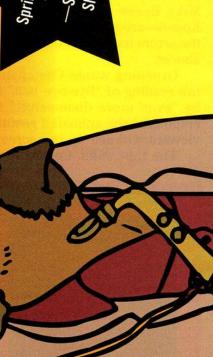
"Homer's not just a clown," she says. "There was a danger there. He could have become a buffoon.

"Dan has such a wealth of talents. And he's just got a great spirit. I think Dan can play anything in the world."

UESDAY is **BLUESDAY** at

AND THE BLEEDING GUMS MURPHY





IND THE IND

Springfield elementary school with Peekly Pews E

EXTRA!

VOL. 43, NO. 6

"PUBLISHED BY KIDS—SO YOU CAN'T SUE US"

5¢

WHO IS EL BARTO?

Principal, Parents, Pupils, Police Puzzled by Painting Prankster

By Bart Simpson Investigative Reporter

"EL BARTO."

Can it be that these two simple words are causing the entire town of Springfield to have a cow?

The answer is yes!

Everyone seems to be upset by the cunning little mischief-maker who has spraypainted his cryptic signature on almost every wall within bicycling distance of Springfield Elementary School.

But no one knows who is responsible!

Principal Skinner has gotten particularly bent out of shape by "EL BARTO," especially since the clever fiend spraypainted Skinner's office



Surveillance photo of the unknown criminal mastermind during recent daring daylight strike outside Mrs. Krabappel's classroom.

door last Tuesday morning, apparently while everyone else was outside during a fire drill.

"My blood is boiling," Mr. Skinner stated to this reporter.

"EL BARTO" seems to have struck almost everywhere. Highlights include the "EL BARTO" on the freeway overpass near the Walnut Street exit, the "EL BARTO" on Cooling Tower #3 at the Springfield Nuclear power plant, the "EL BARTO" on the chest of the statue of Jebediah Springfield in the town square, and, in what must be "EL BARTO's" proudest moment,

CONTINUED ON PG. 2



I Cover the Water Fountain By Ms. X

Whose underpants were hoisted up the flagpole last Wednesday? We're not naming for Mr. names, but the old rhyme "Teacher teacher I declare, I see Martin Prince's bottom bare" comes to mind... fourth grade teacher was seen making goo-goo eyes at Groundskeeper Willie at recess? For shame, Mrs. K.... What local authority figure will flip his wig when he finds out everyone knows the bald truth about his cranial coverup, Principal Shinehead Toupee Chromedome?... What chubby obnoxious bookworm was found stuffed in his own locker on Thurs-

day? The initials on the locker were M.P., and that doesn't stand Popularity, does it, Martin?... Milhouse and Janey, sittin' in a tree, K-I-S-S-I-N-G. First they smooch, then he proposes, then come a buncha kids with great big noses.... Could the Mrs. K. referred to earlier in this column be any relation to our own Mrs. Krabappel?.... Confidential to the Conceited Brainiac: Don't be embarrassed just because you still sleep with your teddy bear. The secret remains with us, Martin (oops!).... Janey I got your name in the paper you owe me three candy bars!!!

A PLEA FROM THE EDITOR



No one ever writes letters to the editor. Does anyone read this? Is it me? Feel free to drop by my office anytime (Room 201, Mrs. Hoover's class, third row from door, second desk on the left, the one with the hardened pink gum glob on the corner.)

—Lisa Simpson, Editor

CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

the recently painted 30-foot-high "EL BARTO" on the side of the school gymnasium!

The police, who have been called in to investigate the one-dude crime wave, don't have a clue.

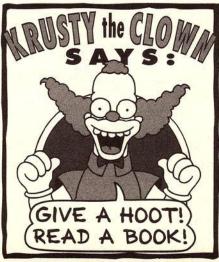
"Whoever did this has real contempt for society," Police Chief Wiggum fumed recently. "But I vow we'll get him someday."

Maybe they will get "EL BARTO," and maybe they won't. For the time being, "EL BARTO" continues to strike when least expected, as if to say: "YOU ARE ALL ABUNCH OF DIMWITS WHO CAN'T SEE WHAT'S RIGHT UNDER YOUR STUPID NOSES."

The mystery continues.

Sports Corner

The Springfield Elementary Junior Pumas were soundly defeated again last Friday, as usual. Why bother with further details?



A PUBLIC SERVICE ADVERTISEMENT



"ONE ROTTEN APPLE SPOILS IT FOR THE WHOLE BARREL"

Another Guest Editorial by Principal Seymour Skinner

Once again, I am forced to inform you that because of the inconsiderate actions of one sick, twisted individual, all of us are going to suffer.

And don't play dumb with me. You know exactly what I'm talking about.

I'm talking about "EL BARTO."

No one makes a fool out of Seymour Skinner, that's one thing for sure.

I hereby declare that until the psy-

chotic punk behind "EL BARTO" is apprehended there will be NO MORE field trips, recess periods, or cafeteria dessert treats.

And don't think I don't know who you are, "EL BARTO." Because I do. I really do. I'm not bluffina.

I swear I will track you down and get you.

This is my final warning. I mean it this time.

Detention Corner

Borton, Wendell. Excessive throwing up on bus. 3 days.

Muntz, Nelson. Excessive taunting, restroom mischief, lighting matches on teeth, petty lunch-money extortion, hall monitor bribery, illegal weaponry, driving without a license. 42 days.

Simpson, Bart. Bad hooliganism, immature Bart Simpson. 4 days.

behavior, calling attention to self, tardigum-chewing, ness, eating paste, never finishing blackboardwriting punishments, skateboarding school, unauthorized smirking, annoying haircut, general suspiciousness, pride in underachieving. days.

Simpson, Lisa. Claims she is "too sad" to play dodgeball. 3 days.

Van Houten, Milhouse. attitude, loitering, Seen in the company of

THIS WEEK'S LUNCH OFFERINGS

MON

Food loaf Tater tots Health donuts Milk

TUES

Meaty cubes in brown gravy Extra-soft mixed vegetables Corn pie Milk

WED

Fish logs Creamed beets Butterscotch pudding with powder lumps Milk

THURS

Hotdog chunks in kettle sauce

FRI

Sloppy Soy Joes Re-steamed cauliflower Bran pie Milk

BANNED BOOKS

The following books have been banned by the Springfield Board of Education and will no longer be available in the school library. If you have any of these books currently checked out, return them to the library IMMEDIATELY.

The History of Art It's OK to Be Different The Case Against Nuclear Power The Theory of Evolution Louie the Leftist Turtle



recently purchased goldfish, beloved of Martin pet Prince. In lieu of Martin flowers, would appreciate it wouldn't you shoot rubber bands and spitwads at him. Funeral services Monday 8 am, Martin's family bathroom.

BILLY, CHILLY, DILLY, JILLY, LILY, MILLIE, TILLY, WIL-LIE, various ages, beloved ants in Milhouse Van Houten's Ant Farm, Killed or escaped when Ant Farm was knocked on floor during wrestling match with Bart Simpson last Tuesday. No flowers, no service. Milhouse would rather just forget the whole thing.

SQUIRM, months, beloved hamster of Bart Simplieu In of flowers, donations Bart would be appreciated by Bart. Open shoebox funeral 4 pm today in vacant lot behind Kwik-E-Video game contest at Noiseland follows.

PRINCIPAL SKINNER CHANGES HOME PHONE NUMBER AGAIN



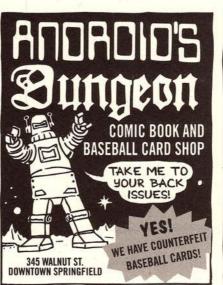
Principal Seymour Skinner, a longtime victim of

malicious phone pranks, has changed his home phone number for the fifth time this school year.

"Imagine being woken up every hour on the hour all night by someone on the phone line making weird oinking noises," said Mr. Skinner in a recent office interview. "If you think that's funny, then you've got another think coming."

Mr. Skinner is confident that his new private unlisted home phone number will end the nightly torment.

Mr. Skinner's new number is 555-9346.







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COMING SOON

OCTOBER 22
NND DRUM SOLO

"Brief...concise...different." —The Springfield Shopper

LARRY DAVIS EXPERIENCE featuring LARRY DAVIS
"Larry' is Springfieldian for 'blues."
—The Springfield Shopper

OCTOBER 29

THE JAZZ HOLE & OFF-KEY LOUNGE "Home of the Translucent Coaster"

"**ROC** is a dream of better television. It not only comes true, it rings true!"

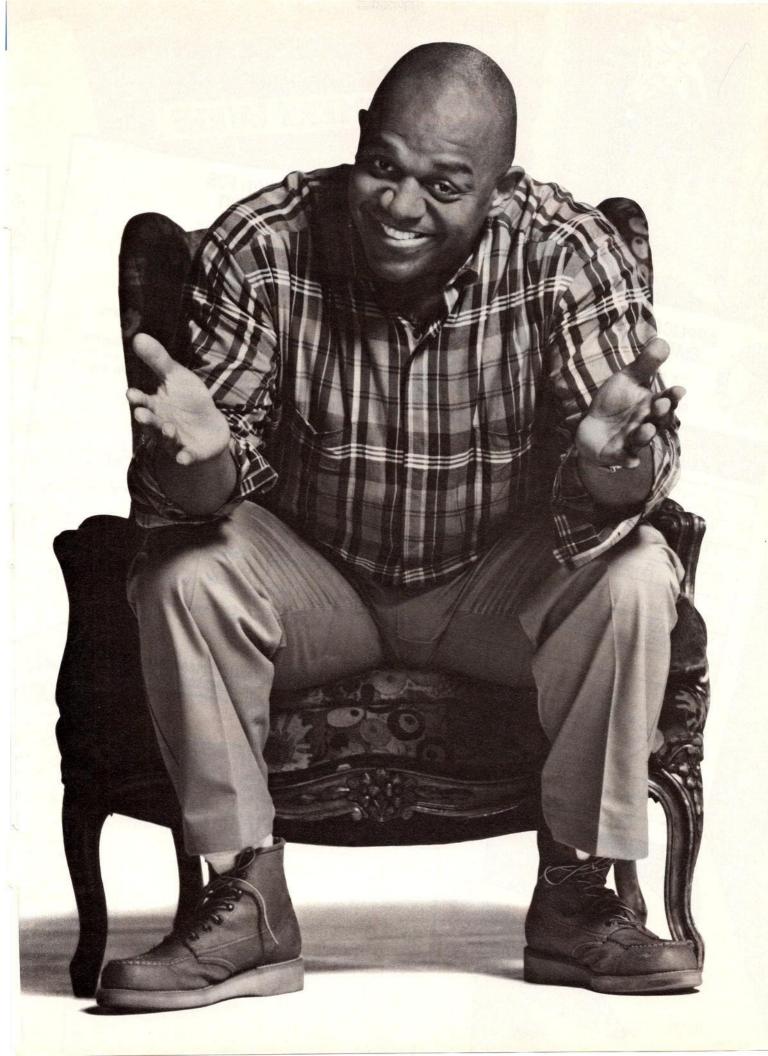
Tom Shales, Washington Post

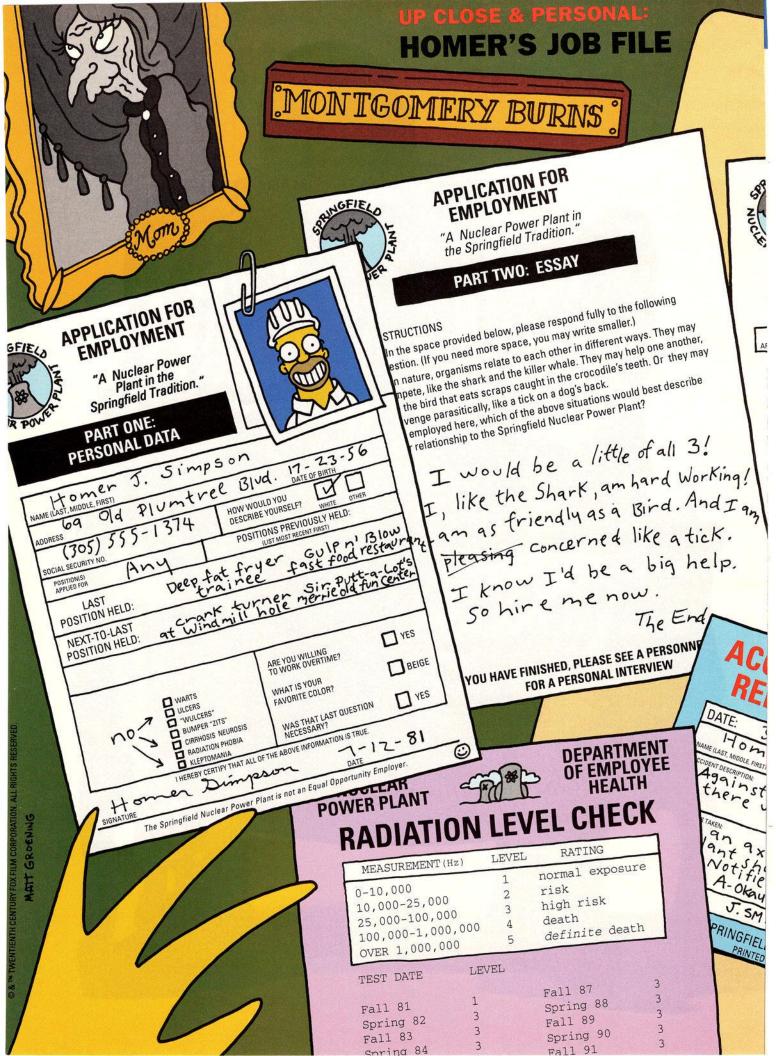


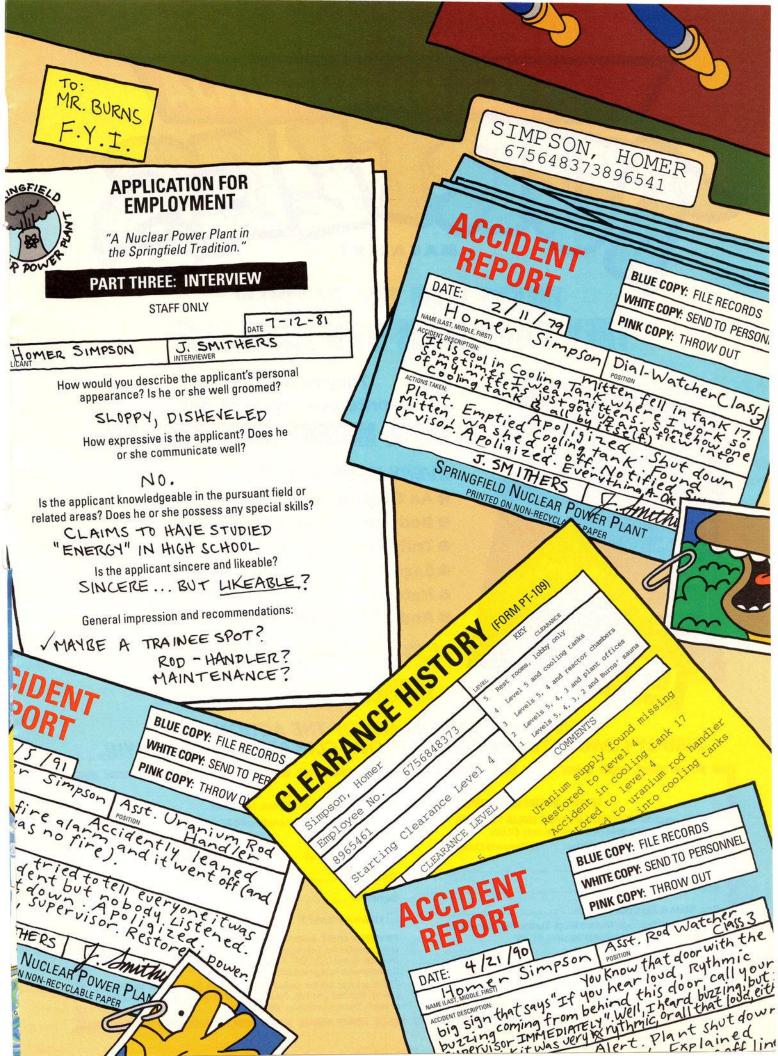
A new comedy from the creator of "Taxi" and the producers from "Cheers."

Sundays 8:30PM / 7:30PM Central & Mountain









TEENAGE MUTANT NIKAA ***CONTROL OF THE VIDE CONTROL OF THE VIDE C

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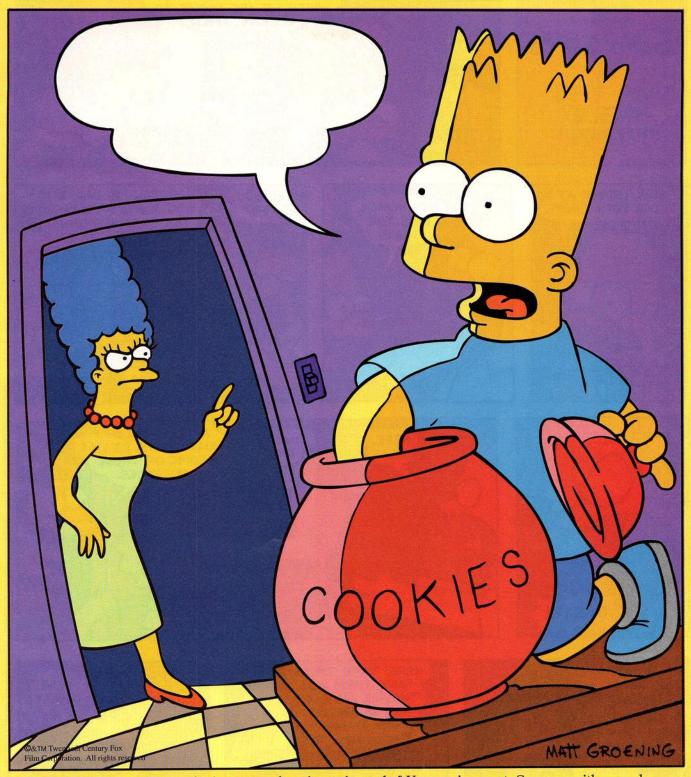
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City, State & Zip Code

WHAT'S YOUR EXCUSE?



Think fast! If you're Bart, what's your explanation going to be? Your assignment: Come up with a good excuse, write it in the word bubble and send it to:

Simpsons Illustrated, c/o Welsh Publishing Group, Inc., 300 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10017. Let's see you talk your way out of this one!

To have your excuse considered for inclusion in Simpsons Illustrated, please write the following on the back of your excuse and sign your name: Thank you for considering my excuse for Simpsons Illustrated. I agree if you publish it and use my name in Simpsons Illustrated, the excuse becomes your property.

MATT GROENING'S THE SIMPSONS IN "AS THE TABLE TURNS"



















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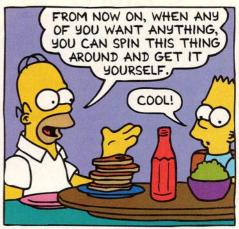






















SMILING FISSION'S

*PUZZLES
*PICTURES
*PROPAGANDA

UP 'N'
ATOM,
BOYS 'N'
GIRLS!

YOU KNOW HOW YOU HATE TO TAKE OUT THE GARBAGE NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOUR MOM NAGS YOU...WELL, HEH, HEH! WE GROWN-UPS ARE KINDA THE SAME WAY ABOUT GETTING RID OF OUR NUCLEAR WASTE!

CONSERVATION:

PIE-IN-THE-SKY TOMFOOLERY OR DANGEROUS EXTREMISM?

In fact, it's both! Conservation is both impractical (after all, who wants less power?) and economically risky. Remember, the more power you use, the more we make! That means jobs for many of our citizens—maybe even your parents—and toys, clothes, and allowances for children like you!

So relax and enjoy, and leave the power to us!



Q: Where do you safely dispose of high-level liquid and solid radioactive waste?

): If ANYONE has an answer to today's quiz, PLEASE contact the Muclear Regulatory Commission as soon as possible!!!

Brought to you by The Springfield Nuclear Power Plant

"The Children of Today Are The Employees of Tomorrow"

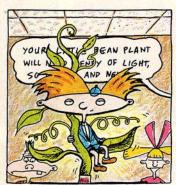
ARNOLD

SOWS A SEED

@ 1991 CRAIG BARTLETT

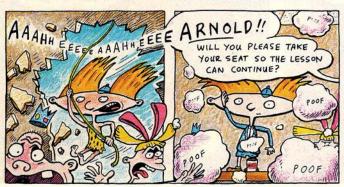
















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catalog. Or write Outward Bound USA, 384 Field Point Road, Greenwich, CT 06830. Financial aid and



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CHAPTER 3:

BACK TO SCHOOL

GATHERING THE SEEDS OF WISDOM TO PREPARE FOR THE LEAN MONTHS AHEAD

THE TEN STAGES OF SUMMER'S END



1. Anger



2. Denial



CLIP AND KEEP IN NOTEBOOK FOR EASY REFERENCE

3. Fear



4. Bargaining



5. Depression



6. Confusion



7. Hunger



8. Boils



9. Locusts



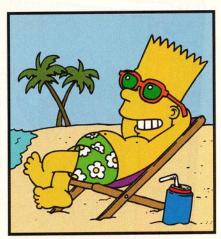
10. Labor Day



HUMANS ARE THE ONLY ANIMALS THAT ATTEND SCHOOL

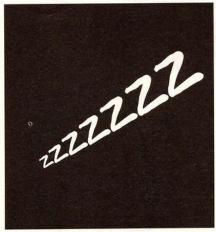
LEARN FROM NATURE

SCHOOL AVOIDANCE TECHNIQUES ADAPTED FROM THE ANIMAL KINGDOM



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HIBERNATION

WITH THE PROPER ATITUDE AND PLENTY OF LATE-NIGHT TV, YOU CAN SLEEP THROUGH ALMOST ANYTHING

THE FIRST DAY

"THAT WHICH DOES NOT DESTROY ME MAKES ME STRONGER." —FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE

DO NOT DELAY!

THE PRESTIGIOUS TITLE "CLASS CLOWN" IS OFTEN AWARDED IN THE FORMATIVE FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL.

REMEMBER: BUILD UP YOUR RESISTANCE!

LIKE ALL TOXIC SUBSTANCES, CAFETERIA FOOD REQUIRES AN ADJUSTMENT PERIOD, START WITH SMALL DOSES AND WORK GRADUALLY TOWARD A COMPLETE MEAL.



BE GRATEFUL YOU'RE NOT THE NEW KID.







PREPARATION = SUCCESS

With fine-tuning, the right notebook becomes a powerful tool:



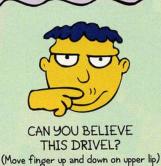
AS YOU READY YOURSELF FOR YET ANOTHER YEAR OF SCHOLASTIC & SOCIAL TURMOIL YOU MAY EXPERIENCE A STRANGE FLUTTERING SENSATION IN YOUR ABDOMEN. THIS PHENOMENON IS PERFECTLY NORMAL, PERHAPS EVEN FAMILIAR; AND YET, JUST WHAT ARE

"BUTTERFLIES IN THE STOMACH"? A SCIENTIST REPLIES:
"BUTTERFLIES IN THE STOMACH
IS A COMMON CONDITION WHEREBY
EXCITATION OF THE GASTRIC
NERVE TRIGGERS EXCESSIVE
ACID SECRETION INTO THE STOMACH.
IT IS NOT CAUSED BY BUTTERFLIES
AT ALL. IT IS CAUSED BY MOTHS."





TOO FAR AWAY TO TALK? CAN'T SAY IT OUT LOUD? NEED TO SEND AN URGENT MESSAGE? COMMIT THESE HAND CODES TO MEMORY AND THEN DESTROY THIS PAGE!





I LIKE HIM/HER.



AYE CARUMBA!

WHAT AN AIRHEAD. (Pull invisible string through ears back and forth)



THEY'RE CRAZY.

(Scratch alternate arms 3 times each)

SHOW ME YOUR ANSWERS. (Twirl pencil in direction of friend)



CHECK OUT THE HAIR ON THAT ONE.

(Tug on hair in front)



ARE WE THE ONLY ONES WHO SEE THE ABSURDITY OF THIS? (Spin hands in circles)



I'M GOING TO HAVE A CONNIPTION FIT IF THEY DON'T STOP TALKING. (Move fingers up and down)



WHAT A GEEK! (Brush fingers down arm)



GET ME OUT OF THIS SITUATION NOW! (Tug on ear)



I HATE HIMHER.



CHECK OUT THAT OUTFIT. (Tug on collar)



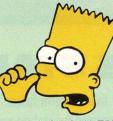
LET'S GO MAN! (With palm down, rub thumb up and down)



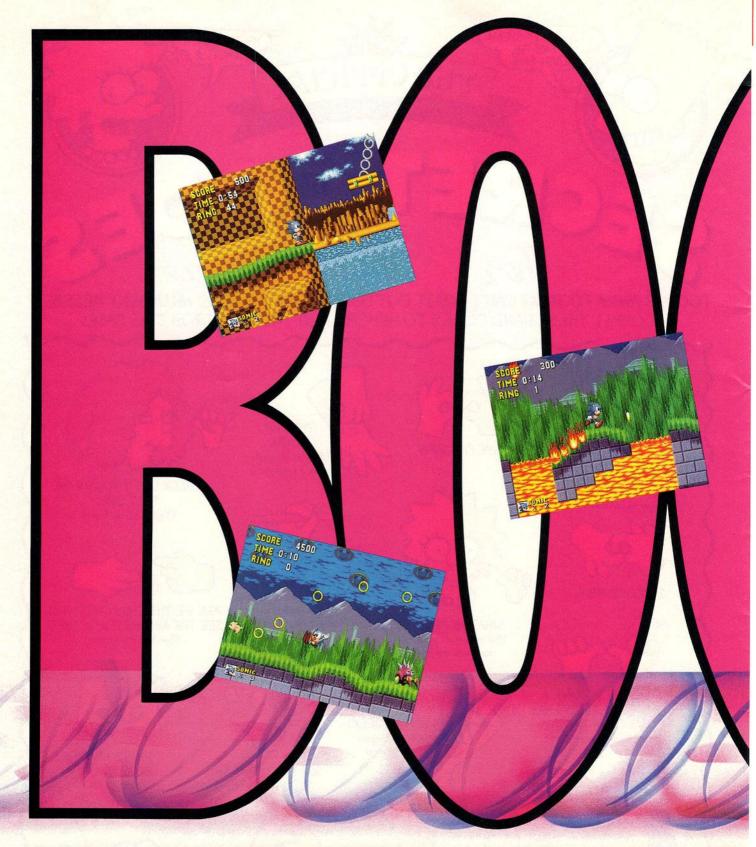
LET'S STAY. (Hold palm up)



DON'T SAY ONE MORE WORD, OR I WILL DIE AND THEN KILL YOU. (Fingers locked, snap heels of palms back and forth)



EW! B.O. ALERT!



IT'S STARTED. SONIC THE HEDGEHOO

Think fast. C'mon faster. What happens when a not-so-common hedgehog reaches supersonic speeds? A **Sonic boom**, of course. And you'd better get ready for it. Because here comes Sonic The Hedgehog." He's the fastest critter the world has ever seen, and he's a hedgehog with a major attitude.

Watch him smirk in the face of danger as he blazes his way through hilly pastures, underwater caverns, marble ruins, strange cities and a cybernetic world of enemies in a race to save his buddies.

Sonic's got everything a hedgehog could ever want: tricks, gadgets and speed. Lots of speed. And he's not



IS OUT. AND NO ONE CAN STOP HIM.

afraid to use it. Just try to keep up as he gives the bad guys the run-around with his infamous ultra-sonic spin attack. There's never been anything like it.

So don't blink or you just might miss Sonic The Hedgehog. He's fresh, he's on Genesis, and he's here. Well uh, at least he *was* here.

Sega, Genesis and SonicThe Hedgehog are trademarks of Sega of America, Inc. © 1991 Sega of America, Inc., P.O. Box 2167, South San Francisco, CA 94080.





LISA'S TOP FORTY: 1. My baritone saxophone. 2. The Happy Little Elves as a group. 3. The Happy Little Elves individually: a. Yendor. b. Bubbles. c. Doofy. d. Moldy. 4. The joy of overachievement. 5. Finding a surprise dessert in my Iunchbox. 6. Bleeding Gums Murphy. 7. Tetherball. 8. Seeing Bart get caught red-handed. 9. Cartoons with redeeming social messages. 10. Looking on the bright side. 11. Be-bop. 12. Playing both sides against the middle. 13. My friend Janey. 14. Corn-on-the-cob. 15. Television. 16. The way my baby sister smells right after her bath. 17. The pursuit of happiness. 18. Recess. 19. The time I got all 50 states playing the "License Plate Game" on our trip to Hell Valley National Park. 20. Any form of revenge on Bart. 21. Expressing my inner howl through music. 22. Mom's cooking. 23. Moral superiority as a lifestyle. 24. Amelia Earhart. 25. Those sprinkle things that go on top of ice cream and cupcakes. 26. The (imagined) delight of getting a pony for Christmas. 27. Snowball II. 28. Santa's Little Helper. 29. Freedom of choice. 30. A Super-Deluxe Krusty Burger with bacon, chili, cheese and

extra Krusty Secret Sauce. 31. Ms.

Hoover...on a good day. 32. Mr.

Bergstrom any time.

33. My dad's laugh. 34. Peace.

35. The painful beauty of Emily

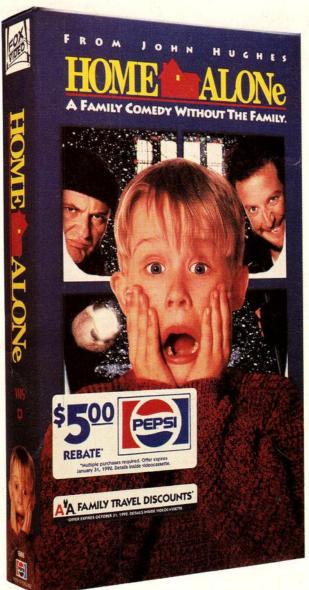
Dickinson's verse. 36. Being a

misunderstood creative genius. 37. Daffodils. 38. Angst.

39. Putting on a brave front.

40. And, in spite of everything, my family.





Suggested Retail Price

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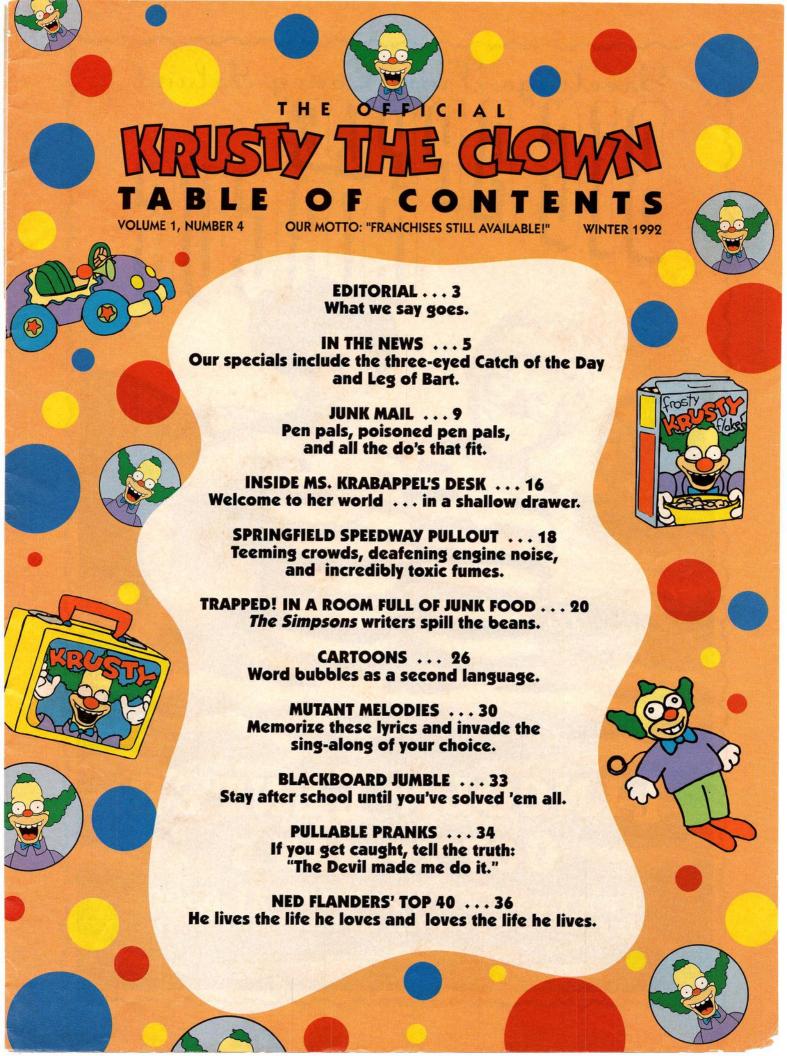
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Magazine Publishers of America

THE FRONT PAGE

In September, The Simpsons received an Environmental Media Award for "Two Cars in Every Garage, and Three Eyes on Every Fish," the episode that introduced Blinky, the mutant fish hooked in the warm waters near the Springfield Nuclear Power Plant. In accepting the award, Simpsons

creator Matt
Groening
told of having received
a letter from
a nuclearpower lobbying group that
said the show
"confused and
frightened the
American public." Groening
said that this

"was a sign that

we're **doing the**right thing" and promised that "we at
The Simpsons will continue to confuse
and frighten the American public"....

A bulletin from *The Simpsons* nursery: On September 27, **Nancy** Cartwright, the voice of **Bart**, gave birth to **Jackson Louis Murphy**. Jackson, the brother of Lucy Mae (born December 19, 1989), and the son of William Warren Murphy, weighed in at 8 pounds, 3 ounces....

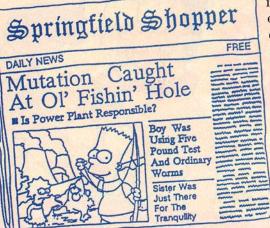
Guest voices on *The Simpsons* late this season include: the world's greatest third-rate heavy-metal band **Spinal Tap** (Christopher Guest, Michael McKean, and series regular Harry Shearer)...Beverly D'Angelo playing country singer Lurleen Lumpkin (and warbling such songs as "Bagged Me a Homer," and "Stand By Your Manager")...and Kimmy Robertson (of *Twin Peaks*) playing a certain ten-year-old boy's first love.

The Simpsons continues to inflict itself on the world with a wide variety of new products and premiums....In Australia, the real thing is Bart's Clear Cola, a colorless soft drink introduced in October by Cad-

bury-Schweppes....Also down under, Johnson and Johnson is using Simpsons artwork on its packaging to promote dental hygiene. In one illustration, Bart says, "My mouth is a temple, man!"....And into the mouth-temples of Australia and England goes Simpsons-shaped dried

> pasta, featuring the heads of various characters and manufactured White Wings Vetta Pasta (Australia) and HP Foods (England)....If you visit one of England's Marks and

Spencer department stores, you'll be able to take home a cake in the shape of Bart's head That is, if you haven't satisfied your appetite with Bart Bites. In late November, Burton's Biscuits began offering the Simpsons head-shaped cookies Wait, there's more: Cereal Partners in the UK is offering, inside boxes of Shreddies, a special "Slogan-Slider." It's a device slightly larger than a credit card with an inner and outer section. You slide the outer card and look through an opening for trivia questions and Simpsons terminology. Turn to the other side of your Slogan-Slider and presto, there's your trivia answer or translation. On the outside of every Shreddies box is a Simpsons "Wobbler" 3-D cutout toy, such as the one depicting Bart kicking a football....In early October, Spain's Chupa Chups began placing a Simpsons "couch figurine," i.e., a miniature family-onthe-couch collectible, in one of every seven of its Tombola surprise chocolate eggs. More than 20 million of the eggs were distributed throughout Germany, England, and Spain....



SIMPSON FAMILY SECRETS REVEALED AT LAST!

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MAN!
NO TO SHAME,
MAN!

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GONE FISSION

An episode of The Simpsons recently inspired a group of antinuclear activists in the upstate New York town of Cincinnatus to create an innovative piece of street theater.

Dressed as Bart, Lisa, Homer and Marge, members of Citizens Against Radioactive Dumping (CARD) presented the New York State Low-Level Radioactive Waste Siting Commission with a foam replica of Blinky, the three-eyed fish found in the warm waters near the Springfield Nuclear Power Plant.

Sherrie Massmann, spokesperson for the 500-member CARD, told Simpsons Illustrated, "We thought Blinky was hilarious." So Massmann and her family spent several weekends carving foam heads of Simpsons characters and a foam replica of Blinky, then prepared their presentation for the Siting Commission hearing in nearby Taylor, New York.

During a lull in the proceedings, "The Simpsons" presented the Blinky replica to the commissioners, while a boom box blared the lyrics to a rap song their children had composed:

"We're a nuclear family, Don't you know, Average folks just in from Oswego. And we've brought you a little prize, And we're gonna present it before your very eyes. Fresh from the lake's hot fission waters,

A little catch from our sons and daughters.

Three-eyed Blinky, the Mutant Fish, A tempting morsel on a golden dish. It's like your story—hard to swallow, About the dump with its burial shallow. So keep your money and keep your tale, 'Cause the town of Taylor is not for sale!" What happened next? The chairman, according to a newspaper report of the event, "laughed and showed the youngsters pictures of his own children." Said Massmann, "We think it had some effect."

LEAVE IT TO BART

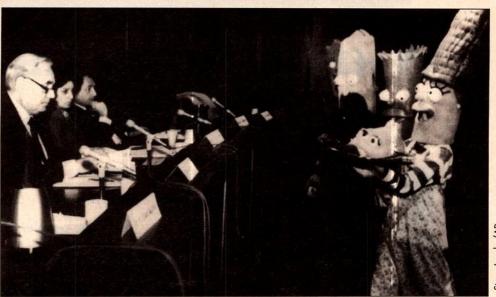
Gee, Beav, you'd look better in a spiked haircut.

That's the conclusion drawn by some shrinks, sociologists, and TV critics who compared The Simpsons to the "sugar coated" American families portrayed in '50s programs such as Leave it to Beaver and Father Knows Best.

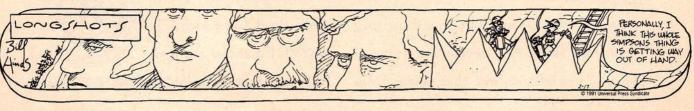
"Too many people compare their lives to TV and they are coming up short," complains one such expert, quoted in the July/August issue of Changes, a magazine for "adult children" of dysfunctional families. In a lengthy article on the subject, the '50s shows are criticized for fostering sexism, racism, and the tantalizing fantasy that all family problems are easily solvable in a half-hour.

Much more therapeutic, the article says, is the "realistic" satire of modern shows.

The article praises The Simpsons for addressing "such issues as censorship, ecology, nuclear energy, extra-marital affairs, and family ther-



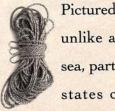
CARD members serve up a mutated mouthful at nuke-site hearing.



WINTER 1992



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IN THE NEWS

apy—not to mention just plain petty greed, selfishness, hypocrisy, and dishonesty."

Another commentator is quoted as saying, "Let's face it. The Simpsons don't fit in with Hollywood's sugar-coated families. But that's OK. They are what the American family is all about."

EMMY OF THE PEOPLE?

This summer, for the second year in a row, *The Simpsons* was kept out of the running for a Best Comedy Emmy Award.

The Television Academy of Arts and Sciences once again decided that *The Simpsons* didn't belong in the same category as, say, *Cheers* or *The Golden Girls*.

Instead, the prime-time series was a relegated to trouncing Garfield the Cat and various Tiny Toons for the Best Animated Program Emmy—and receiving its trophy during the non-televised "technical" portion of the proceedings.

"How could the nominating committee overlook *The Simpsons* as one of the top situation comedies of the year by unilaterally defining it as 'a cartoon'?" lamented Jerry Krupnick, TV critic for the *Newark Star-Ledger*.

James L. Brooks, the show's executive producer, said, "All we ask is that the Simpsons be treated like human beings."

However, *Simpsons* creator Matt Groening was less perturbed: "There is a certain guilty satisfaction in stomping *The Smurfs*."

BAD TO THE BONE

Dr. Timothy P. Close of Richland Memorial Hospital in Columbia, South Carolina, saw right through the problem. When a 35-year-old male patient, otherwise in good health and high spirits, complained of an annoying, prickly sensation above his kneecap, the good doc ordered an x-ray. He stared at the picture a little while. Then he sent it to the medical journal



What do you see in this picture?

Radiology. In its April Fool's Day edition, the magazine reported the following discovery:

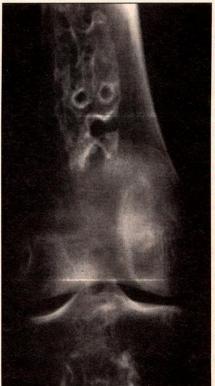
"The first known case of Bart Simpson of the femur."

IN THE NEWS

The following sound like plot twists from upcoming episodes, but they're not:

• Last May, the *New York Times* reported that Joyce Simpson of Stone

Bart of the femur: What a pain.



Mountain, Georgia, drove into a service station in Atlanta, parked beneath a billboard advertising spaghetti dinners at Pizza Hut, and had a religious experience.

Said Simpson: "The Holy Spirit...simply said, 'Look up.' When I looked up, I lost my breath.... I saw the Michelangelo version of Christ. I saw the crown of thorns. I saw the deepset eyes. I saw the nose. The mustache. I saw just the total vision of Christ."

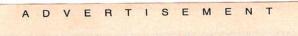
• On the environmental front, the Simpson Paper Company of Eureka, California, agreed to spend \$50 million to reduce the flow of chemical pollution from its paper mill into the Pacific Ocean

Responding to a lawsuit filed by the Surfrider Foundation of San Mateo, California—which represents surfers throughout the country—Simpson Paper promised to install expensive equipment to treat its waste water. The company also promised to install solar-heated showers at nearby beaches, so that surfers could wash off the pollutants.

• In August, the Associated Press reported that at one point last year, the Donald Simpson family (the only Simpsons in the Oswego, New York, phone book) was receiving 20 to 30 prank calls a day.

"The phone calls never stop," Carol Simpson said. "You pick up the phone and it's, 'Hi, Marge. This is Homer. I'll be home soon.' It's round the clock."

RSNA



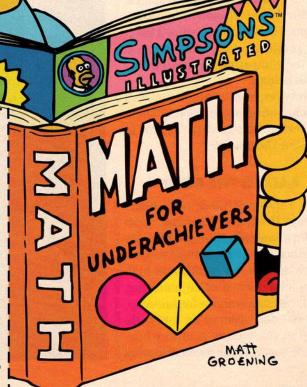
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Kathy Laninovich Santa Ana, CA

THE PLAIN TRUTH

Dear Mr. Groening,

It's nice to watch a show that centers around a family, but isn't so sissylike. Ever since I could watch TV and realize what was going on, I always wondered why my life seemed so far removed from the family's life portrayed on TV. I got tired of watching the neverending saga of the perfect home, the perfect marriage, the perfect job (with the perfect boss and perfect coworkers attached), and the perfect children. Where everyone lives in a state of ignorant bliss and any and all problems are solved thoroughly and completely by the end of 30 minutes. (Not all of them are like this, but most are.)



I love The Simpsons and Simpsons Illustrat-

ed magazine for many reasons, but the biggest one is because they depict a normal American family as it really is with no curtains blanketing the scene. Also, watching or reading something that will make you laugh at life's many little problems (so you can see that maybe every little annoyance in your own life is not that earthshaking) is a lot better than watching a "the perfect life" sitcom and pretending that your worries and problems are nonexistent. You (and the other people that make The Simpsons possible) have caused me much release of tension and stress and many "squirt Coke out of your nose" laughs. Thank you and keep up the good work.

> -Barbara A. Schulte Owingsville, KY

> > David

P.S. In the summer issue of Simpsons Illustrated I especially liked the "Springfield Nuclear Power Plant" pamphlet. I laughed until it hurt.

WORKING WOMAN

Dear Editor.

Enclosed is a picture of myself last Halloween dressed as Marge. Needless to say, I WON FIRST PRIZE at work. I am an Escrow Officer for Chicago Title in Santa Ana, CA. Marge

did a great job working on my escrow files, and the customers loved her.

I did not watch The Simpsons show on television until I started planning my costume. Now I

don't like to miss one program. Yours truly,

-Kathy Laninovich Also known as Marge Simpson Santa Ana, CA

P.S. The hair is made of cotton balls that I dyed blue.

DANKE!

Dear Editor!

I am a fan of The Simpsons. But I live in Germany and here The Simpsons are not very popular. Yesterday I found and bought the summer issue of your magazine in a comic shop. It's really fantastic, but I think there are not enough comic strips about the Simpsons.

-Philipp Komossa Dusseldorf, Germany

A SERIOUS CASE

Dear Editor.

Enclosed please find a few snapshots of a day in the life of Bart (alias my son, Greg). Because playing the hode of role Bart valking my deg. became so much fun, what was to be a Halloween costume Russell St. Peters burg Fla.

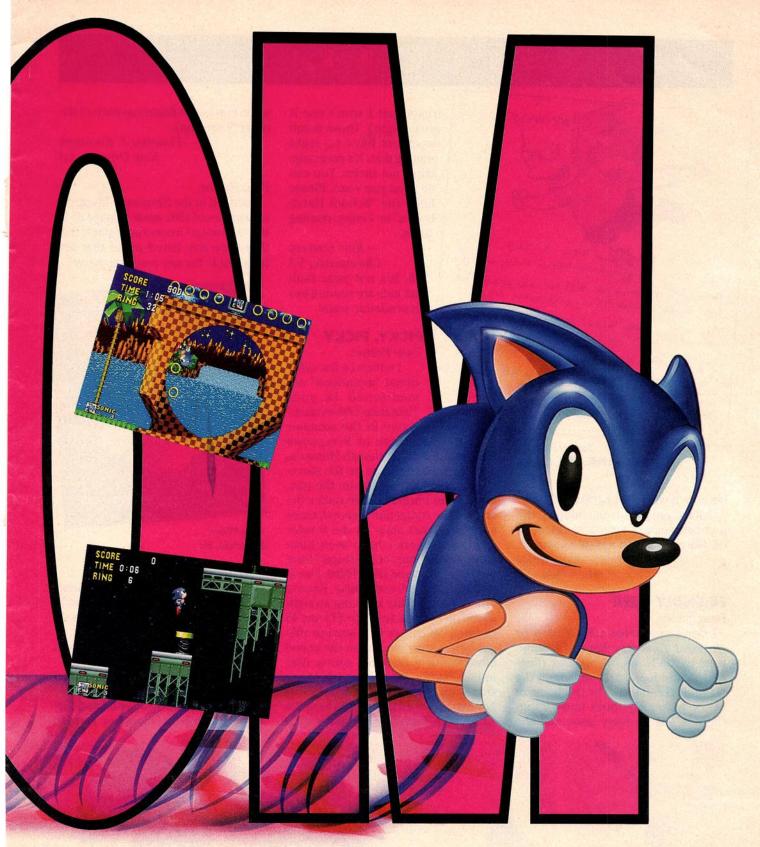


IT'S STARTED. SONIC THE HEDGEHOO

Think fast. C'mon faster. What happens when a not-so-common hedgehog reaches supersonic speeds? A Sonic boom, of course. And you'd better get ready for it. Because here comes Sonic The Hedgehog." He's the fastest critter the world has ever seen, and he's a hedgehog with a major attitude.

Watch him smirk in the face of danger as he blazes his way through hilly pastures, underwater caverns, marble ruins, strange cities and a cybernetic world of enemies in a race to save his buddies.

Sonic's got everything a hedgehog could ever want: tricks, gadgets and speed. Lots of speed. And he's not



IS OUT. AND NO ONE CAN STOP HIM.

afraid to use it. Just try to keep up as he gives the bad guys the run-around with his infamous ultra-sonic spin attack. There's never been anything like it.

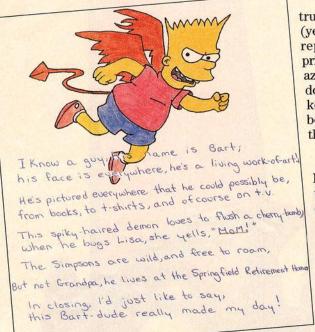
So don't blink or you just might miss Sonic The Hedgehog. He's fresh, he's on Genesis, and he's here. Well uh, at least he *was* here.

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J U N K M A I L



Tammy Frakking Niagara Falls, ONT, Canada

became a whole lot of "Bart Time."

I have enjoyed tremendously the premiere issue of *Simpsons Illustrated*. Good luck with a great magazine.

—Jean Weiss Marathon, NY

FRIENDLY USER

Dear Editor,

I don't care what *USA Today* or *Harvard Business Review* ("Simpsons in the News," *Simpsons Illustrated*, summer 1991) say about the "School Handbook" in the back of every issue. My mom knows that there is one in every issue and she

trusts that I won't use it (yeah, right). Those dumb reporters have no right printing that. It's your magazine, not theirs. You can do what you want. Please keep the "School Handbooks" in. I enjoy reading them.

—Keri Carlsen Chesapeake, VA P.S. It's not your fault that kids are scoring low on academic tests!

PICKY, PICKY

Dear Editor,

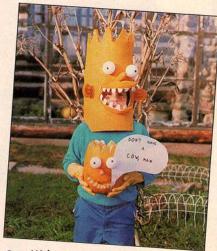
I noticed a few additional "mutations" not mentioned in your "Mutation Observation" game in the summer 1991 issue of Simpsons

Illustrated. First, although Homer is cooking tofu pancakes on the stovetop and heat is rising from the pan, there is no burner visible under the edge of the frying pan. Second, there are three toast slots on the toaster (all the toasters I have seen have either two or four, but perhaps I have just led a sheltered life). Third, Lisa is not holding an authentic Krusty Flakes box. Krusty is facing straight ahead on her box, instead of facing 45 degrees off-center in a semi-profile (as he does on the box in the cereal advertisement from the spring 1991 issue). Finally, the answer key states that Maggie has six fingers on one of her hands, yet all three arms look the same with four fingers apiece (the same number of fingers as each of the other Simpsons).

—Timothy J. Kocourek New Orleans, LA

Dear Editor,

I noticed in the *Simpsons Illustrated* summer of 1991 issue on page 35 in the "Mutation Observation" piece that there are five listed items that are impossible for any reader to know.



Greg Weiss Marathon, NY

- —[Homer is] thinking of work.
- —[Homer is] eating a cherry donut. (How do we know what kind it is?)
- —Not one of Maggie's three hands has six fingers, they all have four.
- —The milk in the fridge is two days outdated.
- —Patty and Selma are dancing naked in the living room.

Either you are very forgetful and forgot to prove your "facts," or you are









John Taylor, Newburgh, NY

J U N K M A I L

very bad jokesters.

Besides the above, I [love] this magazine. I wait by the mail for this magazine to come.

—Robyn Greenberg South San Francisco, CA

We were saving those for a "What's Wrong With This Answer" page in an upcoming issue, but you beat us to it.

WE UNDERSTAND

Dear Ed.,

I just subscribed to your mag and I'm thinking of canceling any further issues. The reason? Too much bull and too little comic-book-style cartoons.

If I want a marketing extravaganza I'll read the Penney's catalogue (or watch MTV).

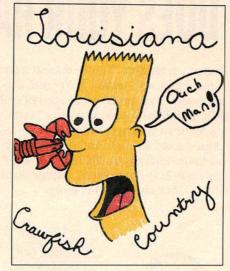
—Pam Willhite
Detroit, MI
P.S. I bet you don't
print this because it's
too negative. But I
am a Simpsons fan.

More cartoons are in
the works, Pam. Check
out future issues.

DANKE II

Editor.

While enjoying your summer 1991 periodical, I could not help but wonder to myself what the English translation of "Kindertotenlieder" (the last



Amy Magee Winnsboro, LA

name of the director, musician, producer, script writer and star of "Space Mutants VII") is, so I asked my brother, who took two years of German in high school, for its meaning.

Brace yourselves—he told me that "Kindertotenlieder" means "song for dead children."

—Debra Jean Hopkins Vista, CA Then we come to the sweet woman Marge

With the Xmas jar in her hair Hiding the money from the not-so-smart Homer

Because he wouldn't think to look there.

But don't forget the eldest child Bartholomew J., the dude "Eat my shorts," is his main remark Obviously, self-taught to be rude. Then there's Lisa with her saxophone Striking every chord of the blues. She also happens to be a secondgrade Einstein

On intelligence, she'll never lose. Then there's Maggie and her pacifier Oh, there's really not much to say Maggie is lovable, sweet, and expressive

Just by saying "Suck, suck" everyday. They are the one and only Simpsons Family of the strange

Sometimes weird and sometimes lonely

But we'd never want them to change.

—Althea White Mechanicsville, VA

DON'T GO CHANGIN'

The Simpsons
First there is Homer
Simpson

A drone from Sector 7G Or so the boss' assistant calls him

Over the intercom, quite officially.

After work Homer grabs a Duff

At the place he loves, Moe's Bar,

And doesn't understand why Flanders

Gets to drive that real big car.

James Cosgrove Havelock, ONT, Canada





Jay S. Bara



David Mills

Brooksville, FL

Jennifer Merklinger



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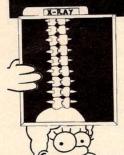


T.A. Petrossie



Mike Labocki

M



Nicolas Laberge

HO DOES YOUR HA



Kudos, oh readers. You've done it again (and again, and again). We're still digging ourselves out from under a pile of do's. Buildings topple from o'er Marge's placid brow and bees zoom through her blue-rinsed tresses. And despite your artistic onslaughts, the lady has kept her cool. May we present...Marge, in all her chameleonic glory.



Rebecca Hodge



Laurie Hooley



Aaron Crider



Chris Weeden





Lisa Waggoner



Leonard Bruce



Margot Hammett



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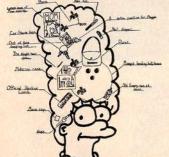
Sabrina Brinegar



Lisa Wagner



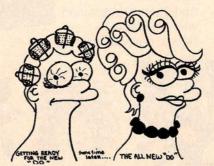
Richard S. Carver



Chris Gable



Jesse Calm



Tina Martin & Sheena Martin



Mike Iverson



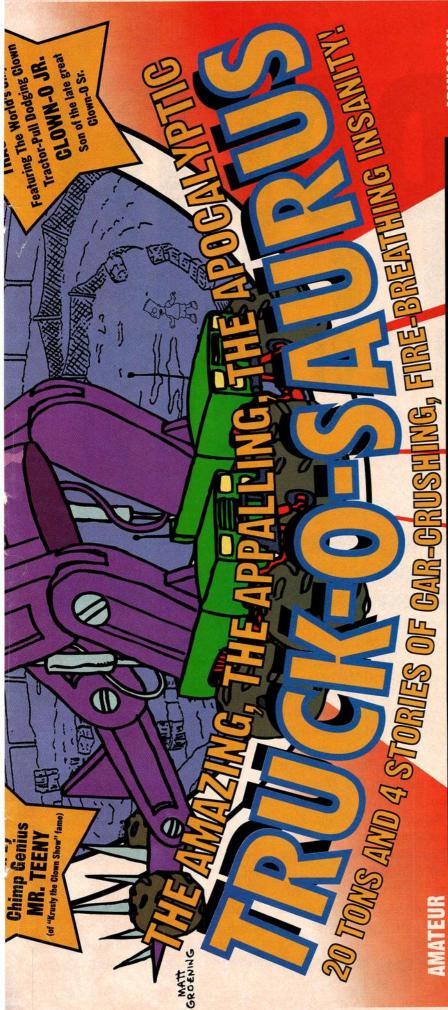
S.A. Jacob











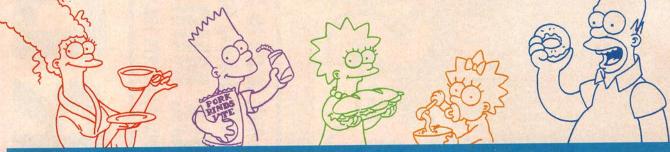
in the parking lot

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DUT OF TRACTION AND BACK IN ACTION!! Danger-loving, Death-defying Daredevil

SEE HIS 200-FOOT JUMP OVER A PIT OF CROCODILES AND INTO THE BACK OF A WAITING AMBULANCE!!!

N A ROOM FULL OF JUNK FOOD



A Conversation with the writers of The Simpsons **By Jeffrey Book**

Despite its name, the New Writers Building on the Twentieth Century Fox lot looks as if it were built during World War II when quality construction materials were in short supply. Upstairs, The Simpsons writers are lounging in their rumpus room, around a coffee table littered with empty cartons of Chinese take-out food and bags of cookies and chips. (What, no pork rinds?)

But don't be fooled—comedy is hard work. The show is written by twelve seriously funny people—Al Jean, Jay Kogen, Jeff Martin, George Meyer, Mike Reiss, David Stern, John Swartzwelder, Jon Vitti and Wallace Wolodarsky-with input from executive producers James L. Brooks, Sam Simon, and Simpsons creator Matt Groening. The guys are veterans of shows ranging from Saturday Night Live and Late Night with David Letterman to Alf and The Tracey Ullman Show. Five of them did time on the Harvard Lampoon.

The banter in the writers' burrow never stops.

Wolodarsky: "It's a really good staff, very solid."

Reiss: "All it takes is one guy with a bad attitude to drag down the bunch. We don't have that problem."

Jean: "Good thing they signed

us up to lengthy contracts that can't be broken."

Wolodarsky: "We have to wear these electronic probation bracelets."

Kogen: "We hate each other's guts but we can't say anything about it now."

Good humor makes it easier to deal with the relentless schedule. Production for each season runs more than a year, so writers can find themselves working on episodes from two seasons at once. The time from conception of a story to broadcast is six & months or more. (Writers of liveaction series finish a script, on the other hand, see it filmed, and move on.) Animation production E

BEHIND THE SCENES

has more stages, requiring *The Simpsons* writers to be involved throughout a long process of fine-tuning.

Most *Simpsons* shows originate at the writers' and producers' twice-a-year hotel conferences. "Everyone comes in with all the story ideas they have to pitch, and we see which ones are good enough to be shows," explains Jean.

"In the course of eight hours, we'll get eight or ten stories that we'll use—about half a season's worth," adds Wolodarsky. This also lets Brooks, Groening, and Simon help shape the stories at the outset; later they can react to scripts in progress.

Working alone or in pairs, the writers come back and flesh out the successful ideas. Often they'll have other story meetings with supervising producers Jean, Reiss, and other writers to correct any problems. Once the story is strong enough, the writers get the go-ahead to expand it into a detailed outline, perhaps 20 or 25 pages long, including a

lot of dialogue and scene description.

"They bring the outline in and we go over it, looking for things that don't work, changing things around," says Jean. "Then they go off to write the script. The first draft is rewritten by the whole staff—that usually takes two or three days. We try to add some really good jokes and make sure the story works as well as possible. So every script ends up with something in it from almost everybody in the room."

On Thursday morning, the rewritten script is read by the cast, while the rest of the production staff looks on. "By the reaction of everyone there, you can kind of tell what material is working and what isn't," Jean says. "Then we rewrite that script over the next day and a half, and that becomes what's recorded on the following Monday-just the audio track. But it still can change a lot. We change lines on Monday while we're recording, we change material when the animation comes back in a rough black-and-white version called the animatic, we even change it after it comes back in color form from Korea."

"Luckily, we can alter dialogue so that it still fits the animation," Reiss says. "A lot of

Writer's Bloc: (Back row, L to R) Jon Vitti, Al Jean, Mike Reiss, Jeff Martin, Wallace Wolodarsky; (Front row, L to R) George Meyer, John Swartzwelder, Jay Kogen, Matt Groening. stuff can be done in video editing to maintain the lip sync."

"So we're always adding new lines or cutting things that don't work," Jean says, "right up until a show airs. We've changed things on Tuesday in an episode that aired on Thursday. The whole process is continuous. We're always working on four episodes at once, in various stages of development."

"There are things in the scripts that surprise us both ways," Martin says, "things you'd swear are gold and get no response, other things that you can't believe get a laugh."

"By the time a show gets on the air, we've all heard the same jokes dozens of times, so one of the things we have to do is remember what the reaction was the first time," Groening says. "It's one of the reasons I think the show holds up to repeated viewings, because the jokes that stay in are the jokes we didn't get tired of."

The writers also must



WINTER 1992

BEHIND THE SCENES

respond to
the storyboards created by the
animation
directors,
the music
score, and
the audio
track for
their episodes.

"The storyboards provide a lot visual of jokes that feed back into story," the says Kogen. "And the actors ad lib a lot of jokes as they're reading through or recording the show," Reiss adds.

On The Simpsons, writers

produce and producers write. The distinction is a fuzzy one. Jean explains: "Generally people who've been working on the show a little longer have a producer credit. This season everybody's a producer."

Mike Reiss

"I'm not," snaps Martin.
"Phony-baloney producer credits. They mean little. It's the story editor who matters." (Martin is executive story editor.)

While most half-hour TV shows follow a two-act structure, with a brief lead-in or closing bit, *The Simpsons* is a three-act show. "We usually introduce a problem in the first act, elaborate on it in the second, and resolve it in the third," Meyer

says. "We usually have a little bit of a cliffhanger at the end of the acts, and we try to end the show with something clever—"

"You're giving it all away!" Reiss interrupts.

"Now everyone will be able to do it!" Wolodarsky says.

But Meyer continues: "For example, the cable TV story that ends with Homer cutting the cable and the screen going to static."

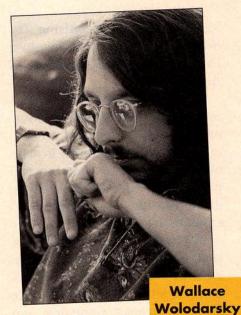
"With three acts we can do two sto-

"We've never once said, 'We shouldn't put this in because

kids won't understand it."

ries in one show, where the first-act story is almost unrelated to the main story, but introduces it," says Jean.

Martin adds, "The first act may be five minutes of free jokes and one thing that sets the plot in motion—like the show that started with the Simpsons going to a water park in the first act, which ended with Homer stuck in a



go on a diet. Then we didn't see the water park again."

"We'll set up a story in the first act that might be enough for an entire episode of another series," Meyer says. "It will be resolved in the first act and we'll go on—it helps keep the show interesting."

"We cram so much into each show," says Martin. "Each script is half again as long as standard sitcom scripts because we don't have a laugh track, and the pace is extremely fast."

The show is dense with allu-

sions to movies, music, art, and, of course, television. "We've never once said, 'We shouldn't put this in because kids won't understand it," notes Jean. And we try not to get



BEHIND THE SCENES

preachy, even though characters are usually punished if they do something wrong. You always

want to be funny, and you want to be true to your characters. If you have too many rules, it can stifle creativity.

"It's very hard to produce animation. The quality of *The Simpsons*, every week, is a tribute to the animation directors and the s t o r y b o a r d artists."

The writers like the freedom that animation offers. Martin says, "Doing *The Simpsons* is a very special opportunity to go wild with the writing, to not be bound by the constraints of a three-camera show, where people say, 'We can't do this scene—do you know what it would cost to build this set?' If we want the Simpsons to go to the opera for ten seconds, it's no problem."

Jean cites another advantage: "In live-action shows, if you have

Jeff Martin

a child actor and the show lasts ten years, the actor will turn into a hideous-looking adult, and you to keep have adapting to that. Bart can always be ten years old and Lisa can always be eight. We're striving for a timelessness, so you could mix a

from the latest season with one from the first."

George

Meyer

Wolodarsky adds, "It's like

some sort of existential nightmare where

you just keep repeating your tenth birthday."

Reflecting on other things that make writing for The Simpsons different, Swartzwelder says, "It's a writer's show—it's

"It's a writer's show—it's radio with pictures. You could close your eyes and just listen and still be entertained."



entertained."

"People seem to actually care more about the show than on other shows I've worked on," Meyer says. "We try to make every episode great."

"It's a joy to work on a show that you think is funny and that matches your sensibility," Wolodarsky adds.

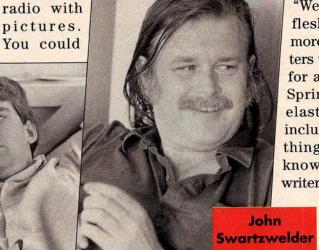
With more than fifty episodes in the can, the writers are far from running out of ideas. "The

show has settled into a

groove," notes Meyer.
"We've developed and
fleshed out a body of
more than forty characters that we can rely on
for any situation." And
Springfield's reality is
elastic enough to
include just about anything. The Simpsons
know no bounds. (The
writers have already sent

Bart to France, outer space, and hell.) "We go through material like termites," Martin says,

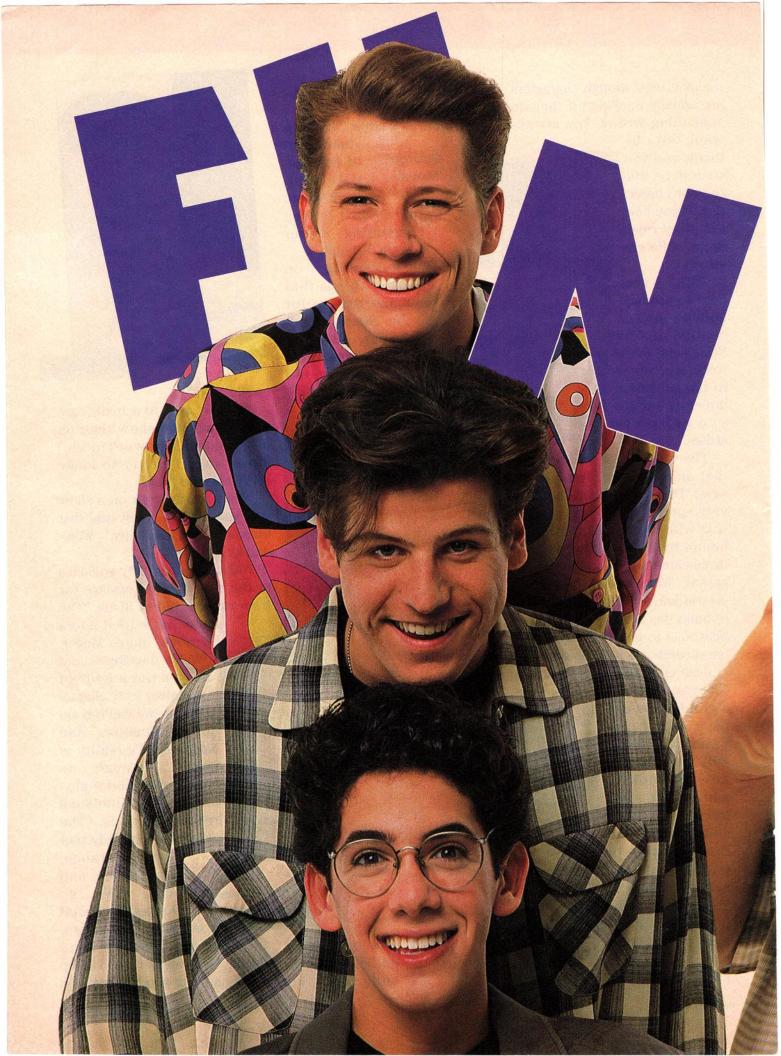
"but our scope is very broad. You can bet we'll keep coming up with good shows."

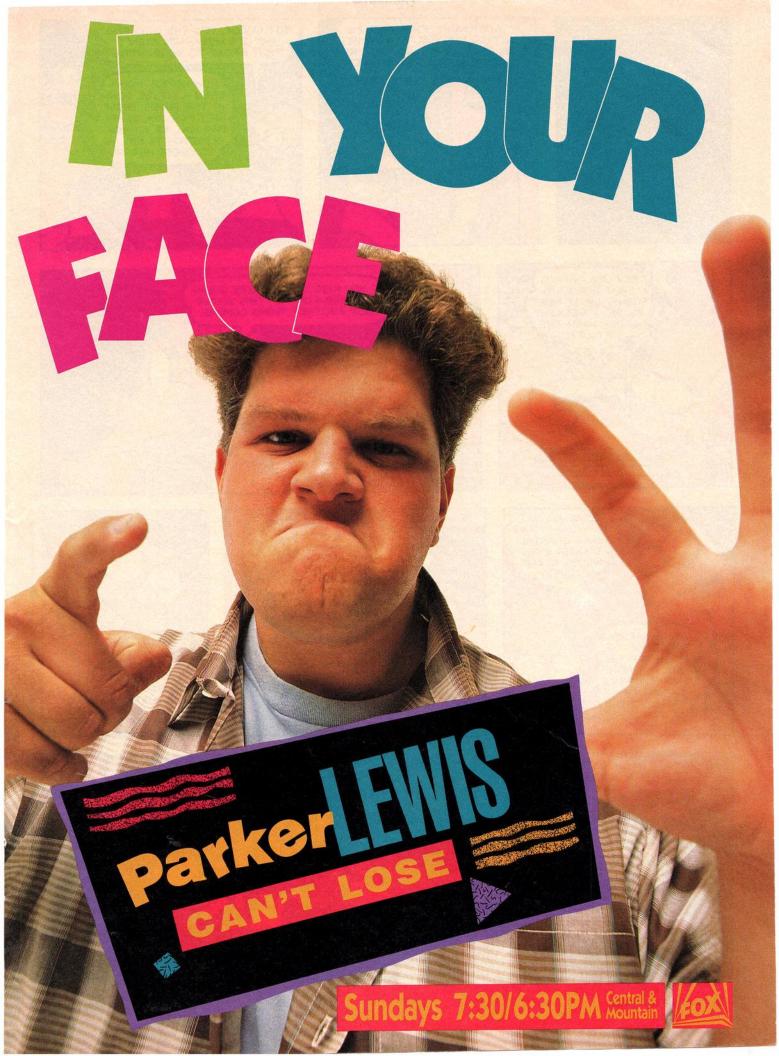


close your eyes and just listen and still be

WINTER 1992

show





GROENING'S

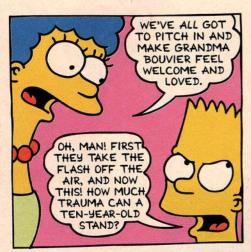
THE
SIMPSONS
IN
"LOUSED
WEEKEND"



















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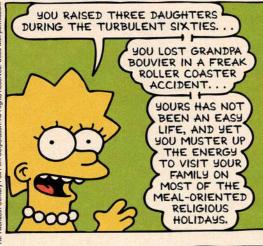






















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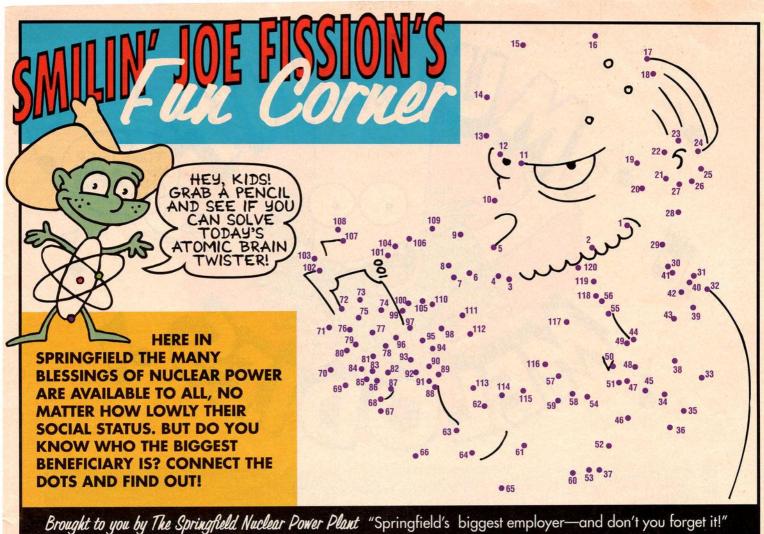
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Y WAIT! L



SHOW AND TELL

(to the tune of "Jingle Bells")

Show and Tell! Show and Tell! Objects on display. Oh, how dull it is to see your Grandpa's old toupee-ee!

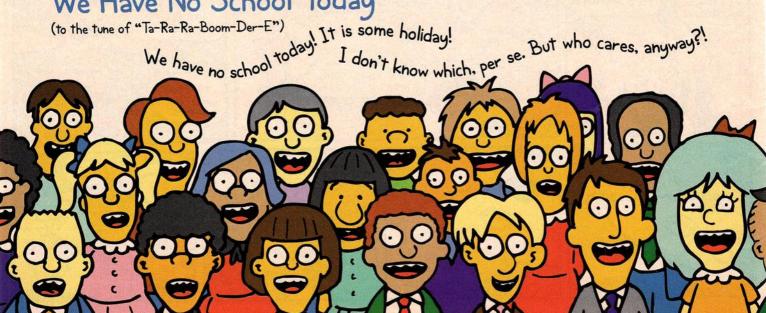
Show and Tell! Show and Tell! Ashtrays made of clay. A rusty crank from a broken bank and a fat pet cat named Ray.

One day Nelson Muntz brought in a bee hive, opened it to find the bees were still alive! (Ow, ow, ow!)

Spoiled Martin Prince showed off his Monet. When it slipped and ripped in two he cried and ran away!

Show and Tell! Show and Tell! (etc., repeat ad nauseum)

We Have No School Today (to the tune of "Ta-Ra-Ra-Boom-Der-E") (1) is so



THE SUPER-STRETCH WAISTBAND

(to the tune of "The Star-Spangled Banner")

Oh, say, can you see, through the trees over there, what so proudly we pulled up the flagpole last Friday, from the locker-room grabbed, leaving someone's butt bare, when we fed the flag rope through the brand name tag sideways?

Up there blowing around, a stretch waistband its crown, you would think that by now, they'd have taken it down.

Oh, say, does that underwear still flap in the breeze, o'er the classrooms, the schoolyard, the parking lot and the trees?!



I'VE BEEN WORKING ON MY HOMEWORK

(to the tune of "I've Been Working on the Railroad")

I've been working on my homework
While I watch TV.
I've been working on my homework
While I skateboard down the street.
Can't you hear the teacher calling,
"Your book report is due!"
"Here it is," I calmly answer,
"All in one sentence, too."

"Here's my book report,
Here's my book report,
Here' my book report for you-ou-ou.
Here's my book report,
Here's my book report,
All in one sentence, too."

THE BATTLE HYMN OF THE BLACKBOARD

(to the tune of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic")
My hands were on the gradebook
where the students' marks are stored.
The teacher burst upon the scene.
"Put down that book!" she roared.
Now I'm writing out these words
one hundred times on the blackboard:
"I will not steal gradebooks."

Man, this task is disconcertin' Ow, my writing hand is hurtin' There is one thing that is certain: I will not steal gradebooks. Annoy, Annoy, Annoy Your Teacher

(to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat")
Annoy, annoy, annoy your teacher

By yelling her first name.
Emily! Emily! Emily! Emily!
You'll drive her insane.



BLACKBOARD JUMBLE

Spending afternoons writing useless sentences at the blackboard isn't Bart's idea of fun.

But he's come up with a way to amuse himself and befuddle his teacher...writing rebus-style.

See if you can unravel his detention inventions for yourself.



ANSWERS: 1) I will not make monkey faces. 2) I will not order pizza for lunch. 3) I will not be a wise ass. 4) I will not blow milk through my nose. 5) I will not hypnotize the teacher. 6) I will not speak in tongues. 7) I will not give students haircuts.



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Pullable

HEY KIDS! FEELING CREATIVE
AND REBELLIOUS? TAKE THE ADVICE OF
YOURS TRULY. PULL A FEW INNOCENT
PRANKS! THEY'RE EDUCATIONAL AND I
PROMISE YOU WON'T GO TO JAIL!
SEE YOU IN 70 YEARS!

Spook the teacher: Plan ahead of time with your classmates that everybody will scratch a lot during class. You can also randomly look up at the ceiling with a disturbed look on your faces. And there is always the old reliable "Syncronized Pencil Drop" that's annoyed teachers forever.

TAPE A \$5 BILL ON AN INVISIBLE THREAD AND WATCH AS PEOPLE TRY TO GRAB IT AS YOU PULL IT AWAY.

WRITE A REALLY BAD
POEM AND SIGN
SOMEONE ELSE'S NAME
TO IT. TAPE IT UP IN
THE CAFETERIA OR SOME
OTHER PUBLIC PLACE.

Hide all the chalk from the black-board before the teacher comes in.

STICK COINS TO THE SIDEWALK. FRIVOLITY ENSUES.

PASS A NOTE YOU KNOW WILL
BE INTERCEPTED BY THE
TEACHER. THE NOTE SAYS "ISN'T
LEARNING A WONDERFUL THING?"

Announce on a crowded bus that you have just lost your pet tarantula.

AND START A
CHAIN LETTER.
MAIL IT TO TEN
FRIENDS AND TELL
THEM TO XEROX
THEIR BUTTS AND
MAIL THOSE, ETC.



HAND IN A BLANK SHEET OF PAPER FOR YOUR NEXT BOOK REPORT AND CLAIM IT WAS WRITTEN IN INVISIBLE INK.

(Have the real one handy in case the teacher doesn't fall for it.)

TAPE NICE NOTES TO PEOPLE'S BACKS.

HIDE A TEXTBOOK INSIDE A COMIC BOOK. IT WILL CONFUSE THE TEACHER WHEN SHE COMES TO INVESTIGATES AND SEES YOU DOING YOUR HOMEWORK

> SUBSTITUTE SALT FOR SUGAR IN THE SUGAR BOWL AND WATCH PEOPLE'S FACES!

school by dressing it up and

telling the teachers it's your

Write on the blackboard before class help the way really nice to Signed The Principal.

Mix red & green food black ice cubes.

coloring in water to make Try sneaking your dog into

begins: (Teacher's name here) can't he/she is. Please let's try to be him/her today.

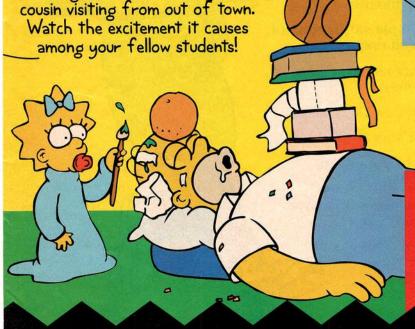
PASTE PICTURES OF EYES ON YOUR GLASSES OR USE YOUR MOM'S MAKEUP TO PAINT EYES ON YOUR FYELIDS.



CALL YOUR WORST ENEMY AND TELL THEM YOU'VE UNDERGONE A SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION AND YOU LOVE THEM. THEY WILL BE BAFFLED.



Decorate a sleeping family member. (This requires some dexterity and nerves of steel. but it's possible.) Try using makeup, glitter, ribbons, and bits of wadded-up, wet paper. Avoid blocking any breathing passages & eyes!



NEDFLANDERS' POPULATION OF MY FAVORITE THINGS"

- 1. Family togetherness nights.
- 2. My "better half"..."the ol' ball 'n' chain. (Hee hee, just kiddin', Maude!)
- 3. Yellow ribbons on oak trees.
- 4. My new 4-wheel drive sport-utility tractor-mower.
- 5. Bob Hope specials.
- Pants with just a skosh more room in the seat and thighs.
- 7. The impassioned rhetoric of Reverend Lovejoy.
- 8. Halogen lighting.
- 9. Stick-to-itiveness.
- 10. My new AudioCratic 48disc CD player with fully uncontrollable no-access random play.
- 11. Yellow ribbons on flagpoles.

12. Natural law.

- 13. Waiters who introduce themselves.
- 14. The Ice Capades.
- 15. The heady mixture of politics and religion.

16. Florence Henderson.

- 17. Cordless power tools.
- 18. Traditional American Family Values.
- 19. Feelin' groovy.

- 20. Those new, super-tasty low-sodium snack foods.
- 21. Talking with "The Man Upstairs."

22. My new 64-inch drive-in screen TV.

- 23. Yellow ribbons on car antennas.
- 24. Theme restaurants.
- 25. The power of positive thinking.
- 26. That cozy way my jogging suit feels when it's fresh out of the dryer.
- 27. Quality time with Todd and Rod.
- 28. My new HeartAttacker-2000 deluxe StepMeister exerciser.
- 29. Dinner theatre.
- 30. The simple satisfaction of a job well done.
- 31. The jazzy song stylings of La Streisand.

32. Made-for-TV movies.

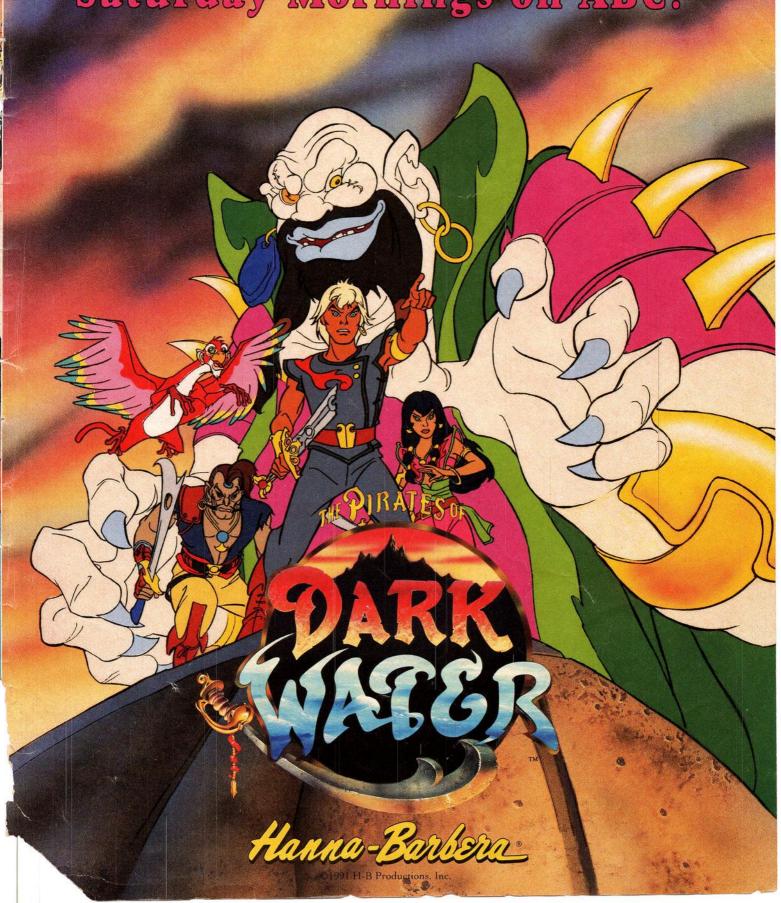
- 33. Maude's meatloaf.
- 34. Good ol' American know-how.
- 35. War movies with dance music soundtracks.
- 36. Reader's Digest's "Life in These United States."

- 37. My new WeedBeater cordless Weasel-Wacker.
- 38. Letting my inner-child out to play.
- 39. Yellow ribbons on high-voltage utility poles.

40. Spunk.











SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED



MENTAL BLOCK!

ITCHY AND SCRATCHY INVADE HOMER'S HEAD!



SHE'S IN SHOCK!

A BIG WORD A DAY KEEPS MOM AT BAY!

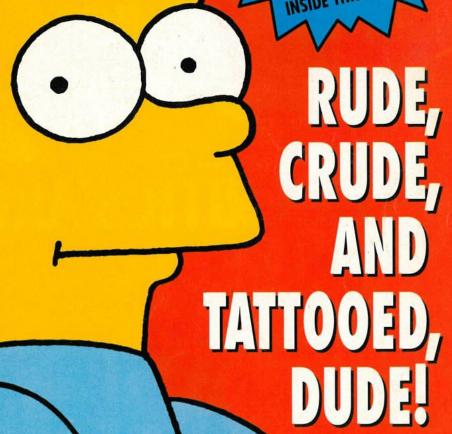


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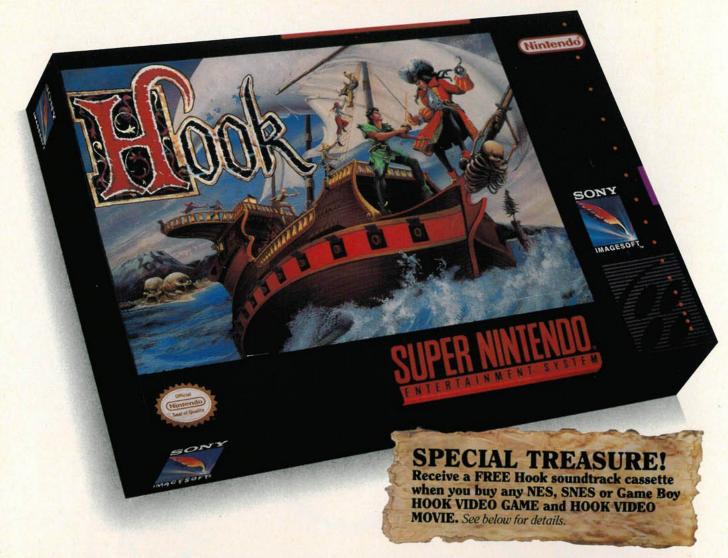


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MATT GROENING



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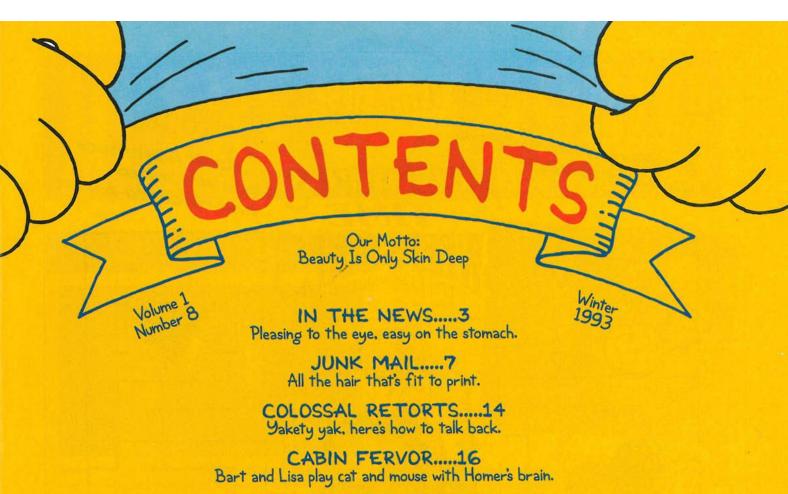
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SUPER NINTENDO





GIANT SIMPSONS PULLOUT 20
Everybody who's anybody in Springfield.

GIVE ME 30 MINUTES AND I'LL MAKE YOU A MAN.....23
Let the Drunken Sailor Tattoo Parlor give you instant attitude...forever.

WORKIN' IN THE BART MINES.....24
A day in the making of The Simpsons.

ARNOLD AND WILLIAM & PERCY....33
Based on a true story!

NAME THAT 'TOON.....35
Match the face with the name for glory and fame.

RETURN TO SLANDER.....38

Neither rain, nor sleet, nor gloom of night keeps Bart from his appointed revenge.

SIMPSONS ALBUMS YOU'LL NEVER SEE.....40
Not available in any store. Don't bother to thank us.

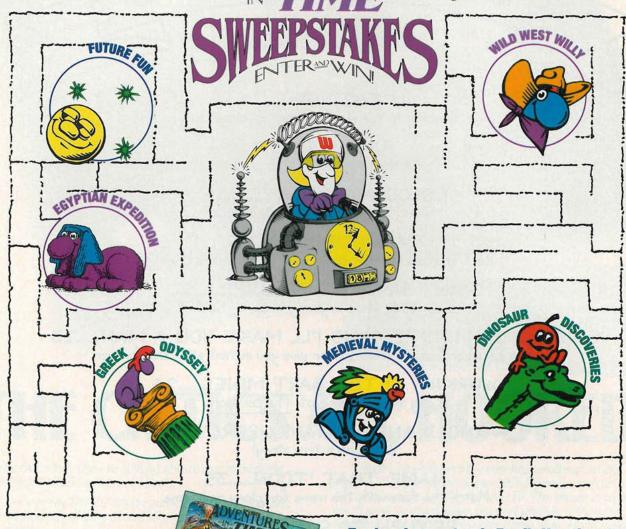
KENT BROCKMAN'S TOP 40....42
Compiled by anonymous college interns.

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THE FRONT PAGE



Above: Emmy winner Dan Castellaneta (the voice of Homer) does an eerily accurate impression of fellow voice-over Emmy winner Jackie Mason (Rabbi Krustofsky), who couldn't make it to the awards ceremony. The other winners (left to right), Julie Kavner (Marge), Nancy Cartwright (Bart), Marcia Wallace (Ms. Krabappel), and Yeardley Smith (Lisa) look on in amazement.



Three guest stars who appear as themselves in upcoming episodes of The Simpsons:

Left: Guest voice Brooke Shields flanked by Dan Castellaneta (left) and Matt Groening (right). Below left: Matt with mutimedia psychologist Dr. Joyce Brothers. Below: Johnny Carson in the recording studio.





PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT?

You can't say that George Bush didn't do his homework during the last election. He prepped long and hard for the debates, beginning right at the Republican Convention by taking on The Simpsons. "We are going to keep on trying to strengthen the American family, to make American families a lot more like the Waltons, and a lot less like the Simpsons," said George. Bart responded by saying, "Hey, we're just like the Waltons - we're praying for an end to the depression, too." The exchange was heard round world, being picked up by CBS, NBC, CNN, Time maga-

zine, and numerous major newspapers.

The puzzling thing about the Bush statement was that it was virtually identical to an attack he made earlier in the year, to which Bart replied with the same answer. It's certainly possible Mr. Bush couldn't think of a comeback, but we decided to ask Bart why he thought the President kept repeating himself. "Principal Skinner does it, too," explained Bart. "If he says something weird over and over again, he thinks kids will believe him." No way, dude.



With the incendiary rhetoric of the '92 political year all but cooled, and the campaign promises being broken like matchsticks, it is with sincere regret that we relate to you a horrible tale of government gone astray. Two years ago Bart Simpson was railroaded out of office for a seat on the East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District in the state of Oregon on a mere technicality, contravening the electoral will of the voters in that district.

An article by Charles Thompson and Allen Lazo in The Oregonian exposed the bitter truth to the light of day. No candidate had filed for this



Today on Oprah: Men who daydream about little yellow people and the women who interview them.

position in the 1990 election, which left the seat up for grabs to the candidate with the most write-in votes. It was a particularly tight race with two other Simpson family members tallying votes (Homer-2, Marge-1). The toughest competition, however, emerged in the form of that grizzled campaign veteran, Mickey Mouse, who put the twist on strong right up to the polling stations and, calling in all his political favors, managed to pull down 21 votes. It wasn't enough, though, as Bart Simpson's triumphant total of 22 carried the day.

Yet victory, and perhaps democracy, were to be shortlived as Bart was not allowed to assume his duly elected post. Apparently, Bart didn't meet the "qualifications" for the position (owning or managing at least 10 acres of land and living or working in the zone). We at Simpson's Illustrated are outraged at this miscarriage of justice in the arena of our fundamental rights. We say let the people decide who's qualified. We urge you to join us. Shout it from the rooftops. "LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE WHO'S QUALIFIED!" Thank you so very much.

WINTER 1993

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ANOTHER DAY ANOTHER DONUT!







The images of the Simpsons have appeared in various forms over the last few years: from T-shirts to video games, from chess sets to books. Not

only can you wear, play, and read the Simpsons, but now you can eat them as well. Foreign markets, ranging from Malaysia to the UK, have over 25 different varieties of

Simpson comestibles and beverages.

The reason for this explosion of edible Simpsonia goes well beyond our everyday pursuit of licensing lucre and straight to a problem that confronts each and every one of us every day of our lives: Health and Fitness. And the key to this all-consuming problem is Diet. As physician to the Simpsons, Dr. Julius Hibbert has made a startling

discovery that could change your life...by

changing the way you eat.

Countless people have tried countless weight-loss remedies, each promising a new breakthrough to success, with no avail. One says to divide your meals into thirds, eating nine meals a day; another says to eat only during daylight hours; a third

says your meals should consist only of grapefruit and edible fronds. All these methods are off the mark. The answer is so simple it's rev-

olutionary, as Dr. Hibbert points out, "We gain weight by eating too much at mealtimes, with snacking and desserts. We can try to alter our meals...OR...we can cut them out altogether and eat just desserts."

The following foods when eaten in the proper dietary combinations will achieve astonishing effects in only a few short weeks. Here is your daily menu on the Simpson's System, or, as it is known in France, the Systeme de Simpson: Your Just Desserts Diet.

On Rising

- 1 12 Oz. can Allens "Bart Simpson" Fruit Juice (Canada).
- 1 handful Bart Bites, Simpsonsshaped toffeeflavored short-cake (United Kingdom).



Morning Dessert

- 2 portions Simpsons Chocolate Sponge Rolls (United Kingdom).
- · 1 serving Scholler Lebensmittel's Simpson Ice Cream on a Stick (Germany).
- 1 12 Oz. can Rap Cola (Malaysia).



Late Morning Snack

- 2 cups Bart Simpsons' Scrunchies, cheese-flavored corn snacks (Australia).
- 1 tetra pak Simpsons Cool Orange Juice (United Kingdom).

pled flesh of our own Homer Simpson.

Mid-day Dessert

1 slice Bart Simpson Cake

(United Kingdom).

- 1 serving Avidesa's Simpson Ice Cream Push-up (Spain).
- 2 Simpsons Ginger Cookies (Australia).
- 1 8 Oz. glass Banaaninmakuinen Juoma (Indonesia).

Early Afternoon Snack

- 3 cups Simpsons Toffee-Flavored Popcorn (United Kingdom).
- 1 Homer Simpsons' Candy-Filled Containers (Ireland).
- 1 tetra pak Simpsons Golden Gumball Juice (United Kingdom).

Late Afternoon Snack

- 1 1/2 cups Tiki Lemonade Powder with stickers (Germany). Water optional.
- 1 bag Tasty Foods Simpsons Corn Chips (Greece).
- 1 11 Oz. glass Sucol Simpsons soft drink (Portugal).

Evening Dessert

• 1 serving Bart's Dairy Dessert

Pudding (United Kingdom).

- 1 bar Kotisaari Ingman Ice Cream Bar, Bart-shaped (Sweden).
- · 4 Simpsons Chocolate Chip Cookies (Israel).
- 1 16 Oz. glass Vadelmamakuinen Juoma (Indonesia).

After-dessert Dessert

- 2 handfuls Die Simpsons Fruchtgummi (Austria).
- 1 cup Simpsons Chocolate Milk Mix (Israel). Milk optional.

Late-night Snack

- 12 Triunfo's Simpson Wafers (Portugal).
- 1 Bart Bar, ice cream on a stick (Canada).
- 1 12 Oz. glass Bart Simpson Clear Cola (Australia).

Midnight Snack

· 1 portion all of the above.









N THE NEWS



EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Three Simpsons color design supervisors, former and present, banded together recently for a group exhibition of their paintings at La Luz de Jesus Gallery on Melrose Avenue in Hollywood. We thought the opportunity to see what these guys did with their legirons off, released from their Simpsons drafting tables, was one we could not pass up. And we are pleased to share the fruits of their labor with our readers.

Paul Fetler, Sam Harrison, and Carol Wyatt are all in their mid-twenties and graduates of Otis Parsons, an art school in Los Angeles. When asked about influences in their work, their former teacher at Otis, Georgeanne Deen, was cited as being of primary importance. Other influences mentioned were Everett Peck, Manuel Ocampo, Robbie Conal, Jim Heiman, Bari Kumar, Dadaism,

CONGRATULATIONS TO PAUL BEAVER OF OAKLEY, KANSAS, WINNER OF OUR SUMMER ISSUE'S BART GUITAR SWEEPSTAKES! TURN IT UP, DUDE! From left to right: "Mary" by Sam Harrison, "Admiring The Catch" by Paul Fetler, and "Don't Forget To Be Stupid Honey" by Carol Wyatt

German expressionism, and popular culture generally. Recommended books include: The Making of King Kong (Paul), Dr. Seuss's Fox and Socks (Carol), and Painting in Renaissance Vienna (Sam).

Though influenced by similar source materials, the artists have each refracted this common input through the prism of their souls, twisted it through their demented minds, and reconfigured it into the crystalline essence of...wait a minute...they like a lot of the same things, but paint differently. Paul's work is filled with nightmarish



versions of childhood memories; inanimate objects often come alive and his use of fluorescent colors evokes a horribly surreal carnival atmosphere. Carol's painting tends to be more satirical and political; she has a candy-coated "sicklycute" style that takes an idea and, almost like a balloon, blows it bigger and bigger, until it's so full of itself and so brittle that it might explode. Sam's work is the darkest of the three; using religious imagery as a vehicle to expose social inequities, especially sexism and prejudice, her painting has a rich, brooding, almost selflacerating quality.

But how do they create these works of art? All three mentioned some caffeinated beverage as their choice of work-drink. Unable to obtain Malaysian Rap Cola, Paul favors Coca Cola, while Sam and Carol opt for coffee. They all talk to themselves while working, and Sam won't talk to anyone else for days, working in the middle of the night to avoid distractions. For one of Sam's projects, a set of Mass Murderer trading cards, she listened to the Beatles' White Album over and over until she was finished. Carol likes to listen to KPFK, a listener-supported non-commercial left-oriented station, "so you get real angry while painting these stupid people" who are

screwing up the world.
"It's easier to do a
painting about something you don't like,"
commented Paul,
who went on to note
that sometimes he
"scares himself"
when painting. "The
image possesses
you as much as you
are creating it."

As with any large group enterprise, there are lots of constraints on *The Simpsons*, which

is why the opportunity to get away and paint just for them-

selves is so satisfying. They are solely responsible for the images they create, which allows them to work things out for themselves; personal issues and individual responses to social events. However, they agree it's been good working for The Simpsons. "It's more political (than most shows). You're allowed to have an edge," said

Carol. "Yes," agreed Paul, "It has more teeth." Most of them upper incisors.

HANDS ACROSS THE ZUIDER ZEE

The 1992 Simpsons Annual special 3-D issue was "fantastische", according to a review by Jan Broeders in issue #61 of *Optische Fenomenen*, the Dutch newsletter for Perception and Holography. He went on to say, "Door de bijgeleverde speciale Simp-O-Vision 3-D bril ontstaan spectaculaire effecten." And we couldn't agree more.

BUCKING THE SYSTEM

A report by Paul Wiseman of USA Today reveals that people would like to see more modern faces on U.S. Currency. 25% of the people polled by The Plus automated-teller-machine network then went on to indicate who they would prefer seeing on the new bills. Among the candidates was our own Bart Simpson. While the Bureau of Engraving and Printing plans no changes, they have indicated they can't, by law, put living people on currency. Though unsure as to how this ruling would affect his selection, Bart responded, "I don't think it would be fair to those older guys to take their jobs, but if they were to print up a new million dollar bill, I'd think about it. Especially if they gave me a wallet-sized copy, just for framing, of course."





Help Mega Man turn Proto Man into spare parts.

Proto Man's got Dr. Light. But Mega Man is back—ready to put some heavy pedal to the metal to defeat Stone Man, Gyro Man, Star Man, Wave Man, Charge Man and other

robotic goons. Use his Mega Buster and Super Arrow to make it to the castle and put Proto Man on the scrap heap forever.



Use your modified Mega Buster before this robot gets the jump on you.



When you bit the gravity chamber, it's hard t tell which way is up



Catch a wave on our bydro-cycle and sink this robot for good.

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THE STATE OF THE S

What's your favorite thing in this issue? Is there something in it that you really hate? Is there anything that's not in it that you think should be? Write to us and let us know-we love hearing from you. Send your mail and pictures to: Junk Mail, Welsh Publishing Group, 300 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10017. Please write on them, "For consideration for publication in Simpsons Illustrated. I agree if you publish my submission it becomes your property," and sign 'em. Thanks!

Dear Editor,

I am the biggest fan of Bart Simpson. The things he does are a rerun of my younger days, and I can relate to him.

My friends think that I am obsessed with Bart. They probably think that because I am heavy into Bart Art. (They gave me the nickname "Bartman.") I draw Bart on my folders, picture frames, walls, etc....I really love to draw Bart doing everything.

There is one thing that I would like to see Bart doing and that is riding a motorcycle.

I've enclosed a picture of my own creation, "Biker Bart." What do you think?

Later dude,

Barry "The Bartman" Martin Pendleton, OR P.S. I subscribe to *Simpsons Illustrated*. I love the magazine; keep up the good work.

Dear Simpsons Illustrated Minds,

I am a big Simpsons fan. I am also an aspiring folk musician. In the "Front Page" section of the Fall '91 issue (pg.3), Patience, Scott. The Simpsons are in the studio right now putting the finishing touches on their new album. And funny you should mention Sgt. Pepper! There's more album fun elsewhere in this issue.

Dear S.I.

I just wrote to say I love your magazine. It's great. Also, the TV show of *The Simpsons* is fantastic! In your summer issue Matt Zimmer talked about bad words. I don't think it would be as funny with "Blast it" or "Curse you" in



JIMI "HENDRIX" SIMPSON Paul Duncan, Longview, TX

would first remind you that we are human beings, NOT THE ANIMATED CHARACTERS WE PORTRAY!! Because I voice Mickey Mouse, it doesn't follow that I live in Duckburg and eat nothing but cheese. You see, Mr. Zimmer, we are professional actors. And one of the first things you learn in acting class is that all actors and actresses have basically two duties: 1) to serve the script and 2) to serve the director. We are not hired to tell the other talented people involved in producing a particular show how to do their

jobs, or to take a moral

BIRTHDAY

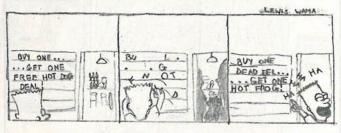
GWEETIEI

DONN

HAVE.

Susan Suarez Green Village, NJ

stand based on an attitude of another character we portray, for hire, for a different company. Our rights as actors do not, I repeat, DO NOT include



Lewis Waha, Merced, CA

it said that a follow-up to *The Simpsons Sing the Blues* was in the works. Is it still? When can I expect it? I think that *The Simpsons Sing the Blues* is a better album than even *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* or even *God Bless Tiny Tim.* I'm desperate!!

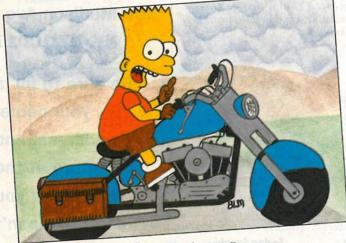
—Scott P. Livingston Arvada, CO

those words' place. I guess
the that's it.
as
en —Ben Bridges
at Waghachie, TX

That's definitely not it, Ben. Consider this...

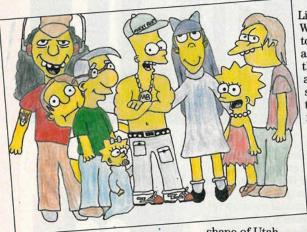
Dear Mr. Zimmer,

Being my wife's #1 fan (as well as a Disney voice myself) I feel I must take issue with the heart of your misguided epistle. Russi [Taylor, the voice of Martin Prince] is indeed a truly fine actress. She has worked in theater, radio, television, and theatrical films and, I must say that I, for one, stand in awe of her many talents. She has played a multitude of different characters in the course of her career. Some of these characters are old, some are young, some are boys, some are girls, and some are even "talking animals." It is this abundance of various "fantasy personalities" heard in Russi's work and her presumed loyalties to each character's "scripted persona" that may have confused you. I



Barry Martin, Pendleton, OR

П



MARKY BART AND THE **FUNKY BUNCH** Cory Clay, Excelsior, MN

telling the different production companies we are working for how to write their shows. Nor are we hired to check scripts for offensive material...the networks have Standards and Practices Departments for that.

In short, being the voice of Martin Prince doesn't give Russi the right to tell the Walt Disney Company how to run its business any more than it would give Minnie Mouse the right to tell the folks at Gracie Films how to write their scripts. While it is true, Mr. Zimmer, that we love some of the characters we play more than others...we give all of the characters we play 1000%.

> -Wavne Allwine Los Angeles, CA

Dear Editor,

For quite some time now I have been trying to figure out what state Springfield is in. According to several episodes it is not in Texas, Michigan, Florida, Utah, Georgia, New York, or anywhere outside of Washington, D.C.

In the episode entitled "Mr.

Lisa goes to Washington," there's a map of the U.S.A., and shows that their state the northwest corner state and that would be Utah, yet was it not in the

shape of Utah.

Also in the flashback episode of Bart's birth, Homer and Marge get married in a chapel in a casino and Homer claims it was located right over the border of their state and the only two states that you can the stolen cable TV episode according to one station it did not air in Florida or Utah so Springfield cannot be in Utah even though it is the most likely state it can be in. So what

> -Timothy Reardon Milford, CT

Springfield is usually in a state of confusion, Tim, but sometimes it's just a state of mind.

Dear Editor,

Thank you for inventing Simpsons Illustrated. It is the only magazine I read. I have every single issue except the first one. My favorite comic strip is "Moe the Bartender" in "Dial 'M' for Moe." It made me laugh the most. I have a ques-



Peggy Bagby, Birmingham, AL

gamble in (or at least in 1980 when this episode takes place) are Nevada and New Jersey, and it is probably not outside of New Jersey because of the mountains shown in a lot of episodes, so it is probably Nevada.

Utah is possible because it is outside of Nevada, yet in tion. About how much time does it take to make one issue? Simpsonly yours,

Sara Stark Yuba City, CA

Oddly enough, it takes exactly the amount of time that passes between one issue's printing deadline and the next! (That's two or three months, if you really want to know.)



Sadao Sasaki

Portland, OR

state is Springfield in?

COVER US!

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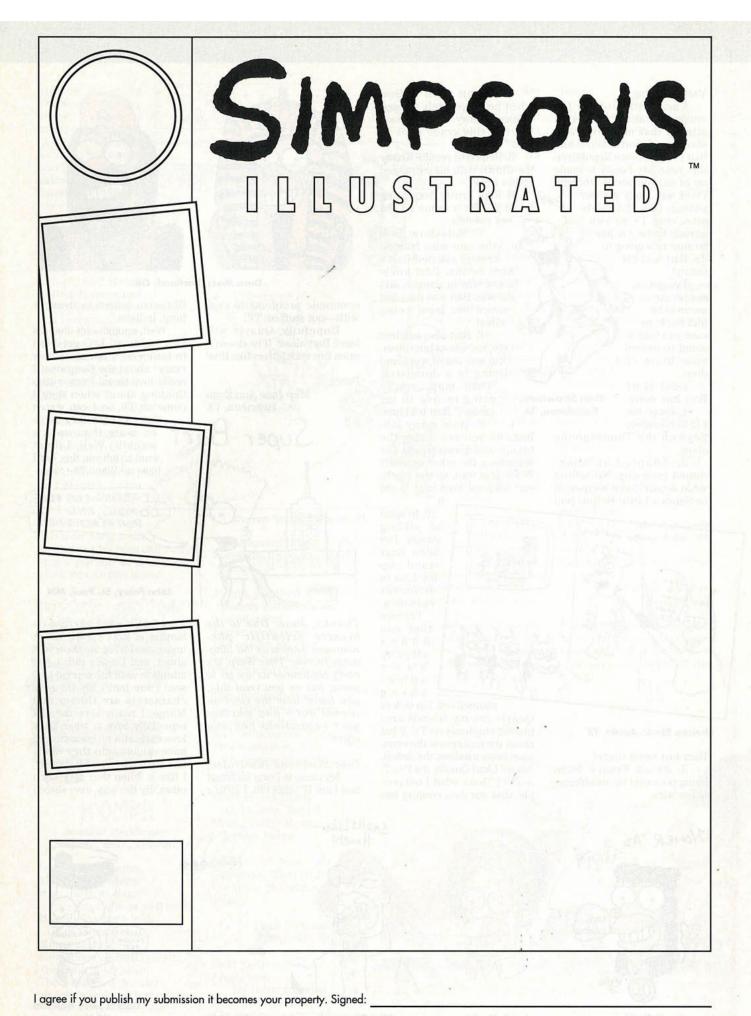
Kimberly Ann Cox Upland, CA



Mickey Doyle Swartz Creek, MI



Jeff Thornton Swartz Creek, MI



Address:

J U N K M A I L

Matt Groening,

I am writing to say I'm concerned about the verbal attacks that may come out about my favorite show and that I will not vote Republican this year. My family is made up of all Democrats (though Perot will likely get our

Perot will likely get our votes). Dan Quayle is attacking TV as you already know. I'm just so sure he's going to dis Bart and his family!

I've got some answers to hit him back, in case you take a stand to defend your brain children.

Cool stuff Bart has done:

1. Gave his \$12 to homeless

guys on the Thanksgiving show.

Luke Strawhorn,

Tuscaloosa, AL

Adopted an abandoned race dog. No telling what would have happened to Santa's Little Helper had 4. Put his faith in God when he desperately needed to pass history. Then he said "part of this grade goes to God."

5. Helped to reunite Krusty the Clown with his estranged Rabbi father.

> Kept Krusty from going to jail for a crime he did not commit.

> 7. Sideshow Bob
> (the one who framed
> Krusty) married Bart's
> Aunt Selma. Bart knew
> Selma was in danger, and
> she was. Bart was right and
> saved her from being
> killed.

8. Bart also admires Otto, his school-bus driver. Otto was out of work and living in a dumpster.

> "Otto man, you're going to live in my garage," Bart told him.

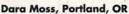
9. How many siblings do you see taking the blame and punishment for something the other one did? When Lisa took all the teachers' editions, Bart said "I did

10. In spite of sibling rivalry, I've seen Bart stand up for Lisa in different episodes.

I'm sure that you d u d e s already h a v e s o m et h i n g

planned out. I'm sick of Quayle (as my friends are) putting emphasis on TV. What about the real issues: the economy, homelessness, the deficit, crime? (And Quayle, it's P-O-T-A-T-O.) That's what I tell people, that our own country has





economic problems to deal with—not stuff on TV!

Hopefully, Quayle will leave Bart alone. If he doesn't, open fire with letters like this!

Peace,

Miss Jane Ann Evan Henrietta, TX

Super-Bar

If he doesn't, ters like this! Bart might say). Let's get down to business!! I am absolutely crazy about the Simpsons! I really love them! I never stop

burg, Indiana.

them! (I wish they came on more than once a week!!!) Well, I don't want to tell you this, but I have to! When *The Simp*-

I FIGHT FOR KIOS

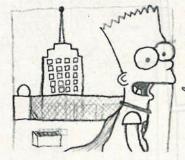
POP M'ACHINES

COMICS, AND FRE

Christian school in Browns-

thinking about when they'll

Well, enough chit chat (as



John Foley, St. Paul, MN

Thanks, Jane. Due to the bizarre scientific phenomenon known as the Magazine Inverse Time Warp, it's early September as we go to press; but as you read this, you know how the election turned out – and whether your suggestions had any effect.

Dear Simpsons Illustrated, My name is Dana Richman and I am 17 years old. I go to a sons first started to come on Sunday at 8:30, I really didn't understand what the show was about, and I really didn't pay attention until the second season! (Sue me!!) My favorite characters are Homer and Marge. I really love them! I especially love it when they love each other. (Sometimes I have doubts—do they really love each other?) Well anyway, I like it when they love each other. By the way, ever since I



Bart not been there!

3. Saved France from being poisoned by anti-freeze-laden wine.



Kelly Kies Phoenix, AZ



Jan E. Hooker San Rafael, CA



Clint Glasscock Vinemont, AL



David Singer Louisville, KY



GSEFN Jerry Basham US Navy, Great Lakes, IL

started watching The Simpsons every week, I knew I missed practically all the first season. and I was really sorry! So I started asking my friends if Homer and Marge ever called each other affectionate names. And my friends told me they heard Homer call Marge "Pumpkin" before, and Marge called Homer her "Teddy bear" before, and I love that!

I have all the Simpsons Illustrated issues thus far, and I love them! I'm very glad we have them!

I also had this dream once that Mr. Groening came to my house to visit me, and so did Dan and Julie (Homer and Marge). I also have got an idea for new show: Wouldn't it be cool if Homer sang a silly song about his boss and every single person at the power plant was singing along?



Montgomery Burns, Montgomery Burns, If he stares at you, then you might as well turn! He's always got a look that's kinda stern, Montgomery, Montgomery Burns (yessir!). The hook in his nose, The wrinkles in his skin, He keeps us in such torment that it seems like a sin. To see him is to make

Napean, ONT., Canada



Darren Stone, Orlando, FL

your tummy burn, Watch out for Montgomery Burns!

At first, you think Montgomery is a devil man. And after that You've come to see, You've seen his kind of eyes watching you On every surveillance TV!

This inhumane beast, But I don't mean moose, He ought be tied up And never turned loose. This world is such a wholesome place, but darn There's Montgomery, Montgomery Burns (Oooh baby, baby!) Montgomery, Mont-

I love you, Mr. Groening. Thanks for creating Homer and Marge!

gomery Burns!

-Dana Richman Zionsville, IN

Dear Simpsons Illustrated,

My name is David Bent. I like to watch The Simpsons and lots of car-

toons. I am eleven years of age and live in Moshers Corner, Nova Scotia, Canada. It's a farming community.

I have a few questions and compliments:

1. Usually in the show, Bart wears a red shirt, yet on the merchandise items he usually has a blue shirt. Why the difference?

2. Why are the Simpsons yellow?

3. Did you name Barney after the Flintstones character?

4. If Bart has spiked hair, why is his head so high?

-David Bent Middletown, NOVA SCOTIA, Canada

1. Bart's red shirt was in the wash the day most of the merchandise photos were

2. Matt figured that people would try to adjust their TV sets to correct the Simpsons' skin color, thereby screwing up the color on every other

show.

3. No. His parents named him that because he was born in a barn.

4.Bartinherited his unfortunate cranial contour from Homer.

Dear Simpsons Illustrated,

I have a **Woniya Arguero** question Santa Fe, NM that I've been pondering ever since I found out who

does the voice of Bart, and I thought you might be able to answer it. When Nancy Cartwright isn't speakfor ing Bart, does she talk like him? Or does she have a dif-



Nick Rutulante New Paltz, NY

ferent voice? Please tell me.

—Megan A. Riordan, Las Vegas, NV

Nancy doesn't talk like Bart when she's not working, but when he's off-camera, Bart does sound an awful lot like



Ross McGrew, Fort Smith, AK

WINTER 1993

HOMER'S HAIR REDUX!



Vanessa Ulmer, Sherwood Park, AB



M. Ricci, Weymouth, MA



Joe Monserrate, Ridgeway, CO



Tiffany Kaproth, Foley, MN



Dustin Starr, Deer Park, WA



Gala Smith, Heidelberg, Germany



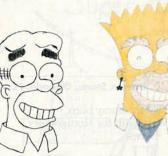
Jack Corbo, Cleveland, OH



Joe Parelka, Factoryville, PA



Josh Anderson, Albuquerque, NM



Evelyn Tansowny, Barrhead, AB., Canada



Scott Prentice, Victoria B.C., Canada



Kasey Kidd, Clinton, OK



Stephen Sharp, U.S. Army, Germany



John Earl, Tuscaloosa, AL



Shane Cullum, Las Vegas, NV



Bob Braasch, Burlington, WI



Tom Jin, Boston, MA



Steven Hendsbee, Ham, ONT., Canada



Anthony J. Polermo, E. Derry, NH



Jessica Rhodes, Ottawa, ONT., Canada



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Tt's the Simpsons! America's most nuclear family. In a new Limited Edi-Ltion collector plate officially authorized by creator Matt Groening and Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation.

Homer, Marge, Lisa, Maggie and the irrepressible Bart. We love them all! Because-more often than we'd like to admit-we all have a little Simpson inside of us! Now you can bring the Simpsons into your home with A Family for the '90's, a fine porcelain collector plate portraying a classic Simpsons moment, inspired by an authentic animation cel. Each plate is hand-numbered and bordered in 24 karat gold and bears the signature mark of Matt Groening on its reverse side.

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TIRED OF FOLLOWING MOM AND DAD'S "SUGGESTIONS"? WANT TO BE YOUR OWN BOSS? DOES THE THOUGHT OF ANOTHER HEART-TO-HEART WITH THE FOLKS SET YOUR TEETH ON EDGE? JUST LEARN THESE SIMPLE PHRASES AND YOU CAN TELL YOUR PARENTS EXACTLY WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND WITHOUT THEM CATCHING ON!

COLOSS

OH BOY! COME WATCH PRO-BOWLING SEMI-FINALS ON TV!

WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE, BLAH, BLA

You say: I suddenly have a POIGNANT (POYN-yuhnt) realization that our tastes are indeed ANTITHETICAL (AN-ta-THET-ik-ul).

You say: Don't you realize you're just an ANACHRONISM (uh-NAK-ruh-NIZ-uhm) and your GARRULOUS (GAR-uh-luss) tales bear no relevance to my own situation today.

JUST LOOK AT THIS ROOM!!!

CAN'T YOU PLEASE JUST
SIT STILL AND
ENJOY THE
SCENERY?

You say: Thanks for noticing. I worked hard to AMALGAMATE (uh-MALguh-MATE) the colors, textures, and objects to create a room that reflects my true self.

You say: Due to the high sugar content of our last meal. I am so RESTIVE (RES-tiv) that I am incapable of being in an ENER-VATED (EN-uhr-VAY-tuhd) state.

SICK. IT'S ALL IN YOUR HEAD.

HEY! CAN YOU GIVE ME A HAND WITH THIS THING?

You say: you're wrong. My MALAISE (ma-LAYZ) has just moved to my abdominal region after your NULLIFIDIAN (nul-i-FID-i-yun) attitude.

You say: It's only CONJECTURE (con-JEK-chuhr), but I don't see how one hand could provide you with the PUISSANCE (PEW-i-suhns) to carry that stove to the basement.

I THINK IT'S TIME TO HAVE A

You say: Father, can I expect the usual TAUTOLOGICAL (TAWT-uh-LOJ-i-kuhl) HARANGUE (ha-RANG) or an AUSPICIOUS (aw-SPISH-uhs) COLLOQUY

POIGNANT (sharp, keen, heartfelt) ANTITHETICAL (directly opposed) AMALGAMATE (unite, combine) MALAISE (vague illness) NULLIFIDIAN (skeptical)

(KOL-uh-kwee)?

TAUTOLOGICAL (needlessly repetitive)
HARANGUE (scolding speech)
AUSPICIOUS (favorable)
COLLOQUY (talk)
ANACHRONISM (an out of date thing)

C

GARRULOUS (windy, excessively talky)
RESTIVE (nervous, uneasy)
ENERVATED (weakened)
CONJECTURE (an opinion)
PUISSANCE (strength)

AL REFORTS

DID YOU LEARN ANYTHING IN SCHOOL TODAY?

You say: I learned that my teacher's style is so VAPID (VAP-id), his ideas so INSIPID (in-SIP- id), his remarks so BANAL (buh-NAL), that it is difficult to stay awake.

WERE YOU RAISED IN A BARN?

You say: I believe you were responsible for my PROPAGATION (PROP-uh-GAY-shun) and TUTELAGE (TOOT-uh-lij). so why don't you tell me?

HOW DID THIS GET IN YOUR DRAWER?

You say: On my upper torso, there are two APPENDAGES (uh-PEN-dij-uhz); on these, there are two EXTREMITIES (ik-STREM-i-teez); on which there are ten DIGITS (DIJ-its). The digits placed it there.

THERE ARE HUNGRY CHILDREN IN THIS COUNTRY.

You say: What you say is noteworthy, but not GERMANE (juhr-MAYN) to the issue at hand. I wouldn't eat this PLETHORA (PLETH-uhr-uh) of INGUSTABLE (in-GUS-tuh-buhl) lima beans even if I were starving.

VAPID (dull, tedious)
INSIPID (pointless, uninteresting)
BANAL (commonplace, trite)
PROPAGATION (reproduction)
TUTELAGE (guidance, education)

APPENDAGES (arms)
EXTREMITIES (hands)
DIGITS (fingers)
GERMANE (relevant)
PLETHORA (excess)

DON'T KISS THE DOG! YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE HIS MOUTH HAS BEEN.

You say: It is a fact that a dog's mouth ABSTERGES (ab-STERJ-uhz) itself of germs. Now please do not disturb our bonding.

THINGS SURE WEREN'T THAT WAY IN 1974. . .

You say: I am SATIATED (SAY-shee-AY-tid) with your tales of the Woodstock generation.

DO I LOOK LIKE

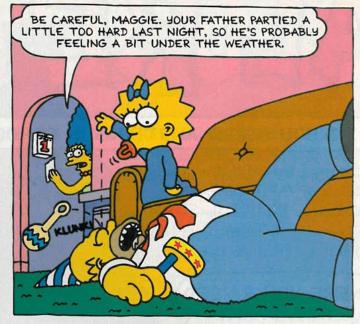
You say: Well, if you put on an apron and a little CHAPEAU (sha-POE), it could make for a charming PARODY (PARE-uh-dee).

GROENING

INGUSTABLE (tasteless)
ABSTERGES (purges, cleans)
SATIATED (fed up, wearied)
CHAPEAU (hat)
PARODY (humorous imitation)







OUR WEATHERMAN, DR. WOODY, IS SNOWED IN ' TODAY, SO YOURS TRULY WILL DELIVER THE WEATHER REPORT FOR NO EXTRA PAY. TODAY'S FORECAST CALLS FOR 10 MORE INCHES OF SNOW, AS SPRINGFIELD ATTEMPTS TO DIG OUT FROM UNDER ITS BIGGEST SNOWFALL IN 30 YEARS.

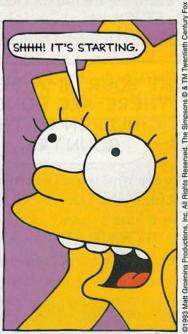


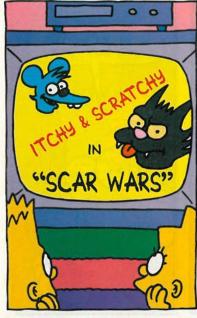




























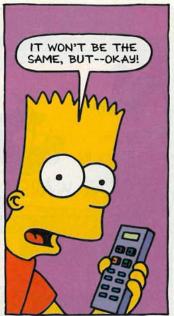


WINTER 1993























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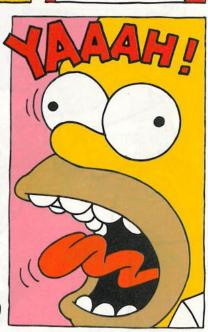






















THE CELEBRITIES DO-WHY NOT YOU?

Do you want to be known as a man of the world? Do you want to be considered a woman of distinction? We've got what you're looking for! Nothing says "sophistication" like a tattoo of some soon-to-be-forgotten heavy metal band prominently emblazoned on your bicep. Nothing shouts "savoir faire" like a picture of your favorite cartoon character cavorting on your tush.

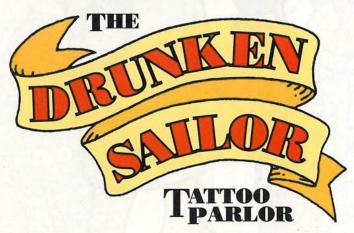
AMAZE YOUR FRIENDS—IMPRESS YOUR RIVALS!

At home—on the job—on the town—they won't believe their eyes when they see you brashly sporting the image of Krusty the Clown on your chest!

YOU GET THE BEST FOR LESS!

Each of our talented epidermal artists has completed a rigorous 45-minute training course before we turn 'em loose on the paying public.

YOU MUST BE AT LEAST 18 YEARS OLD OR BE ABLE TO LIE CONVINCINGLY. NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR MISSPELLINGS.



NOT AFFILIATED WITH THE SOBER SAILOR TATTOO REMOVAL CLINIC.

SPECIAL OF

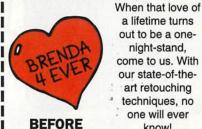
BUY ANY TWO OF THESE DESIGNS AT OUR **REGULAR PRICE AND GET A THIRD TATTOO FREE!**







"CHANGE OF H PRICE SAL



a lifetime turns out to be a onenight-stand, come to us. With our state-of-theart retouching techniques, no one will ever know!



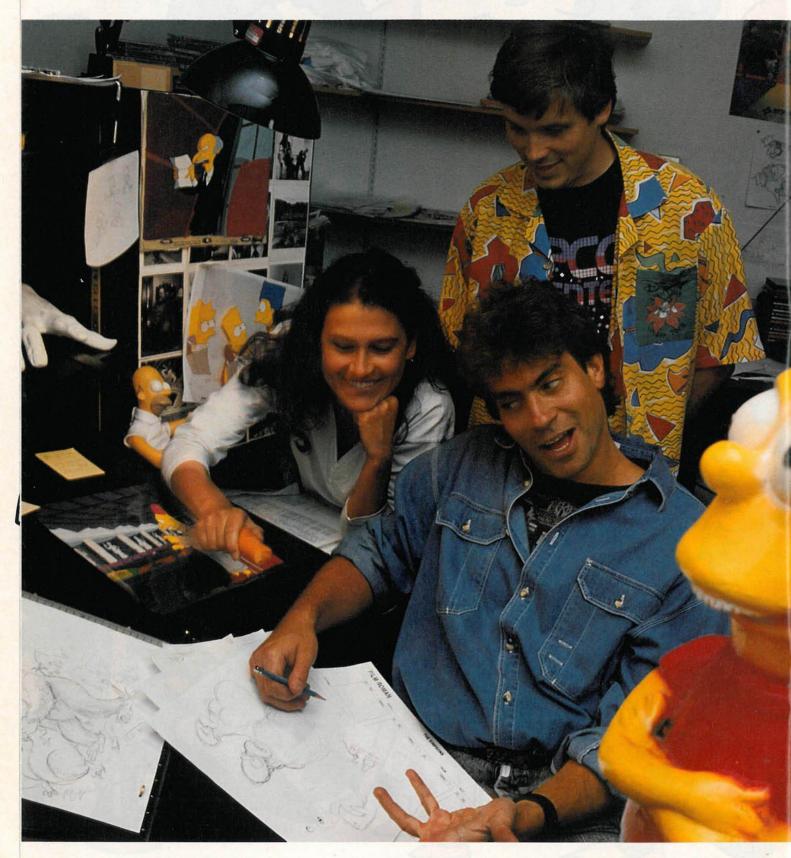
AFTER

LIMIT ONE PER CUSTOMER (WITH COUPON)

2ND LOCATION COMING SOON! TWO DOORS DOWN FROM MOE'S BAR!

BEHINDTHESCENES

WORKIN' IN TH



E BART MINES



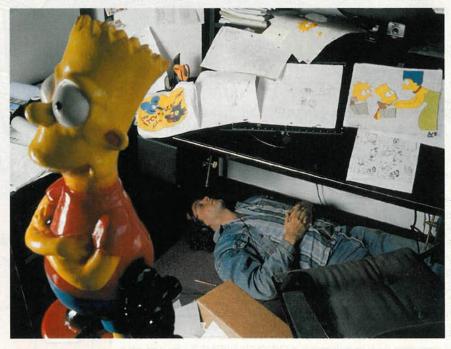
A Day in the Life of The Simpsons

Photographs By Douglas Kirkland

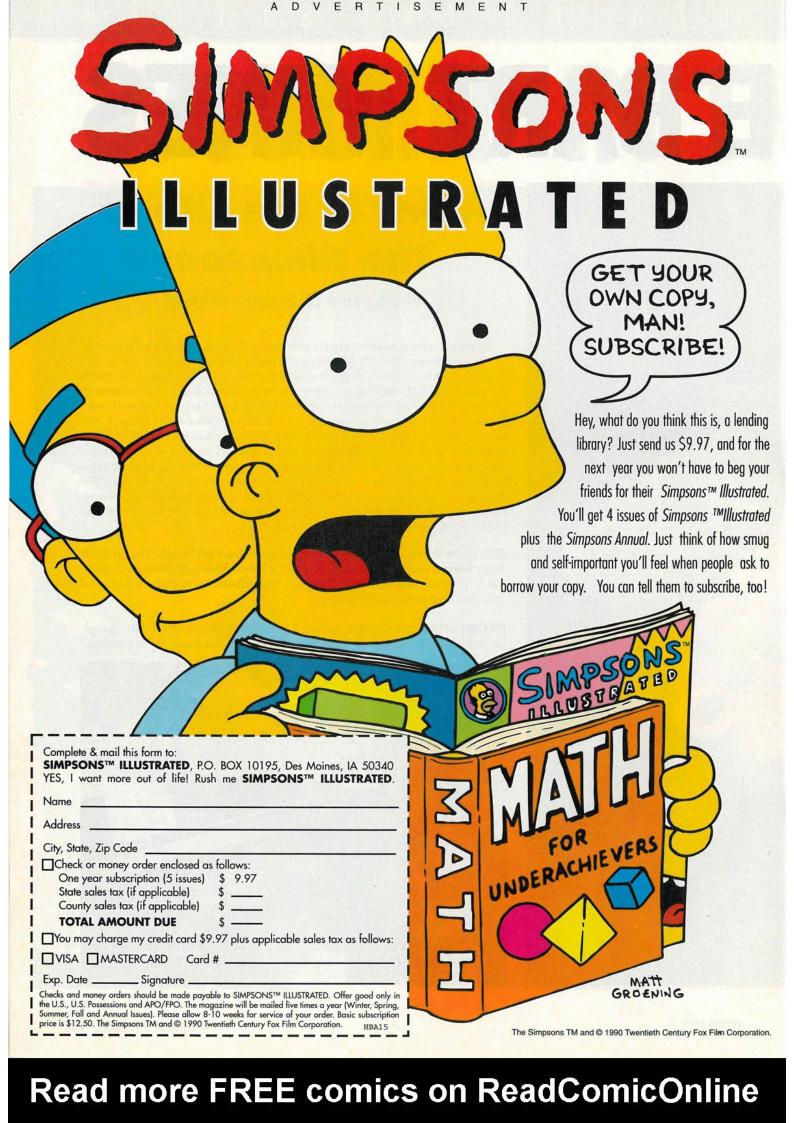
It takes about six months, from conception to fruition, to create each episode of The Simpsons. Literally hundreds of people (between 125 and 150 in Los Angeles alone) are involved in the production of each show, and at any given time as many as 18 different episodes may be in various stages of development simultaneously. Last summer, renowned photographer Douglas Kirkland (who has not only photographed everyone from Marilyn Monroe to Madonna, but is also the father of Simpsons director Mark Kirkland) was asked to contribute to the new book A Day In The Life Of Hollywood and decided all this Simpson activity would provide a motherlode of photo opportunities. He went straight to the top and got Bart's permission to visit the Fox lot and Film Roman, The Simpsons' new animation studio. On the following pages he graciously shares his results with us, so that we may gain a little insight into the soft underbelly of The Simpsons (and we don't mean Homer).

LEFT: Under Bart's watchful but benevolent gaze (from left to right) Layout Artist Tricia Garcia, Producer/Animation Director David Silverman (sitting), Director Mark Kirkland, and Character Designer Scott Alberts try to capture that je ne sais quoi that is Homer Simpson.

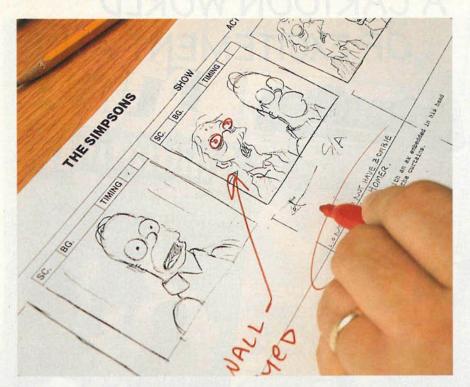
BELOW: While Bart's back is turned, Scott Alberts sleeps on the job, though he later claims to have been channeling the spirit of Tex Avery for inspiration.



hotographs @1992 Douglas Kirklan

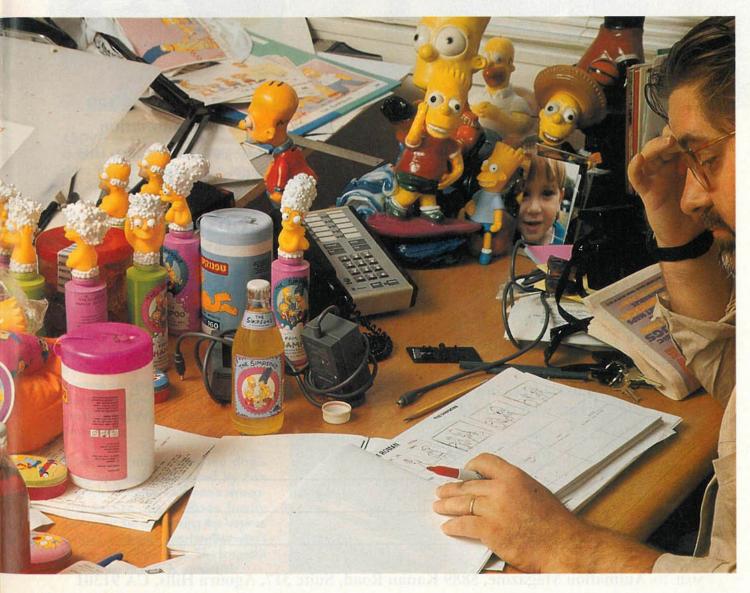


BEHIND THE SCENES

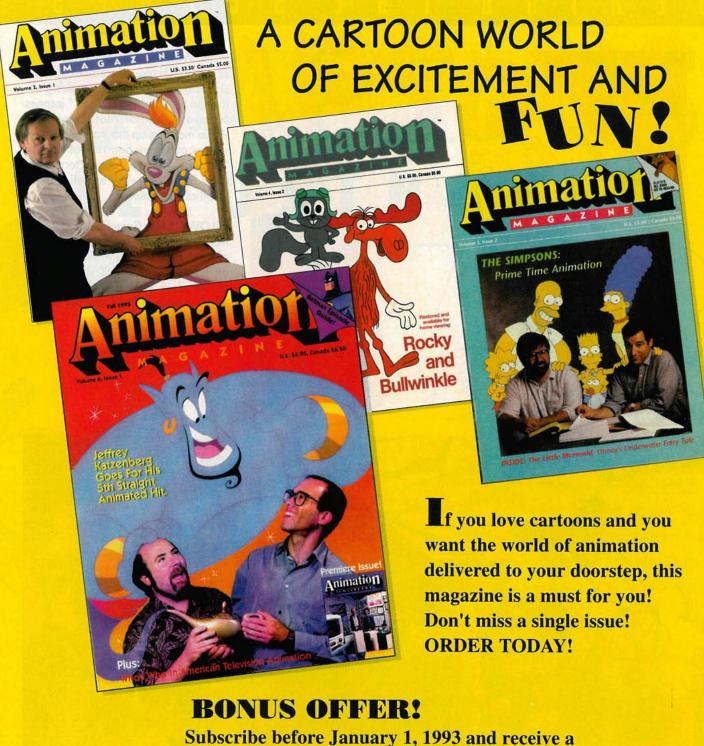


LEFT: "With a red broad tip felt marker you can make mincemeat out of a storyboard artist's painstaking efforts in a matter of seconds," intones Simpsons creator Matt Groening. While marking up the storyboards, he shares an animation rule of thumb: "Drawing cartoon characters walleyed is the best way to indicate existential alienation."

BELOW: Even Groening is not free from Simpson supervision, as a horde of Barts and Homers exercise handson quality control. "I straightened up my desk especially for this picture," explained Matt "but they won't leave me alone."

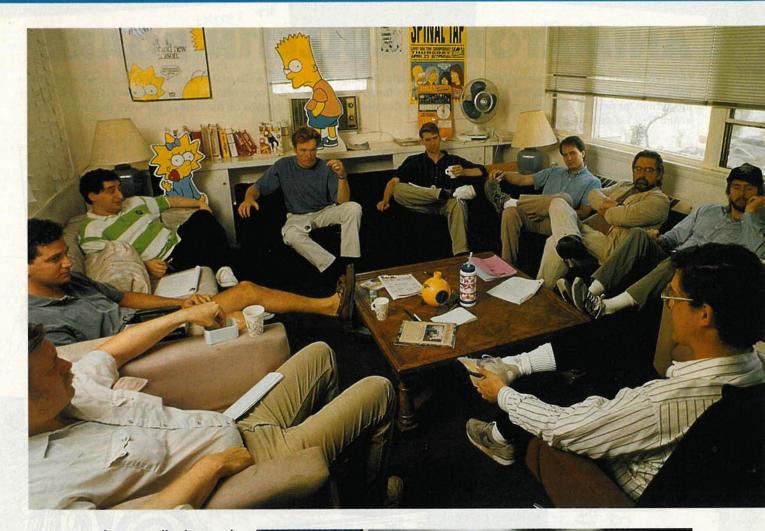


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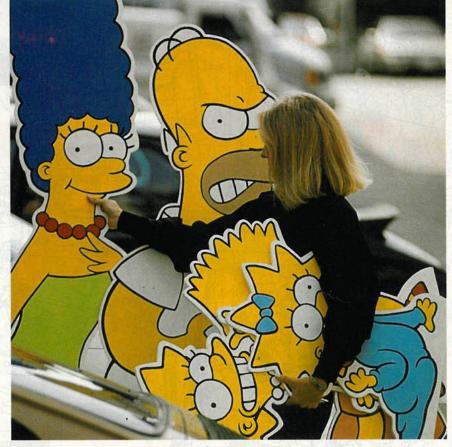
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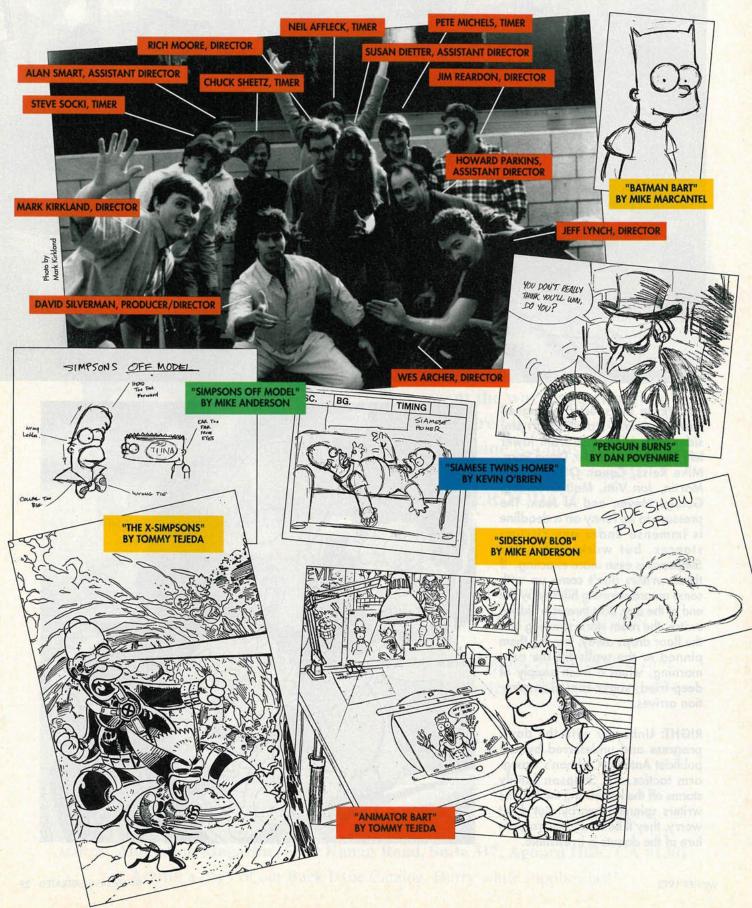
ABOVE: In the specially-designed writers' room, a scowling Bart presides over (clockwise from lower left) John Swartzwelder, David Stern, Mike Reiss, Conan O'Brien, Jeff Martin, Jon Vitti, Matt Groening, George Meyer, and Al Jean. The pressure to be funny on a deadline is immense under any circumstances, but working for The Simpsons is even more exacting. If these writers don't come up with some award-winning hilarity by the end of the day, Bart throws a hidden switch, the room starts spinning and the floor drops away, leaving them pinned to the walls till the next morning, when a fresh supply of deep-fried, sugar-coated inspiration arrives.

RIGHT: Unhappy with the day's progress and undeterred by Fox publicist Antonia Coffman's strongarm tactics, the Simpson family storms off the lot, leaving the hapless writers spinning nearby. But don't worry, they'll be back. The fragrant lure of the donuts is irresistible.



ANIMATORS' BULLETIN BOARD

On a recent visit to Film Roman we found hundreds of little drawings tacked to the walls of the animator's cubicles, adorning the halls in between, and generally just all over the place. It's funny how a bunch of people who claim to be overworked can find so much time for personal expression. Funnier still is how that personal expression takes on the form of the work they're trying to avoid! Here's a sampling.



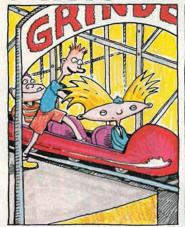


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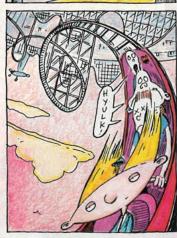


































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"No it's not, it's.



Quaker Oat Life, the delicious wholegrain oat cereal!



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aker Oat Life









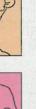








So you think you're a diehard Simpsons fan, eh? Well, here's a chance to prove it. To the left are fifty-four characters from the TV show. Some are recurring regulars, some have appeared only once. Match their numbers with the names below. How many can you identify?











L. Radioactive Man M. Mrs. Glick N. Mayor Quimby

P. Dr. Hibbert Q. Mrs. Hoover R. Janey S. Sherri

T. Terri U. Wendell W. Lionel Hutz

X. Herman 9. Bea Simmons Z. Helen Love joy AA. Rev. Love joy EE. Corporal Punishment

HH. Troy McClure II. Larry

WW. Maude Flanders XX. Rodd Flanders 99. Todd Flanders

AB. Ms. Botz AC. Jacques

12-22: Dan Quay O-II Dan Quayle. **2COKE**: 23-0 24-AC

bətnəməb ylunT :42-74 net enosqmi2

35-46: True yellow Simpsons fan. 23-34: True blue Simpsons fan.

49-NN SO.-A SI.-BB SZ.-N 45-90 46-04 47-FF 48-66 MM-th dd-Et a-St L-It X-.O4 AA-. GE XX-. BE J-. TE

33-F 34-KK 35-1 36-HH 29-R 30-CC 31-AB 32-6 25.-DD 26.-RR 27.-H 28.-K TT-.45 II-.ES UU-.SS L-L.IS 16-Q 17-J 18-E 19-W 20-ZZ 11-B 12-M 13-Z 14-C 15-V WW-OI N-6 66-8 S-L 77-9 1-9 2-00 3-EE 4-55 5-P



THE NAMES:

A. Emily Winthrope BB. Herb Powell CC. Jasper B. Mr Lombardo DD. McBane D. Mr. Largo E. Groundskeeper Willy FF. Kent Brockman F. Richard GG. Roger Meyers I. Shauna (Kashmir) JJ. Sam KK. Wiggum K. Prof. Hipknow LL. Eddie MM. Lou NN. Karl OO. Carl PP. Lenny O. Mrs Hibbert QQ. Patty Bowier RR. Selma Bouvier SS. Dolph TT. Kearny UU. Jimbo VV. Nelson V. Mr. Bergstrom ZZ. Gov. Mary Baily



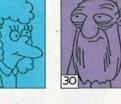


























































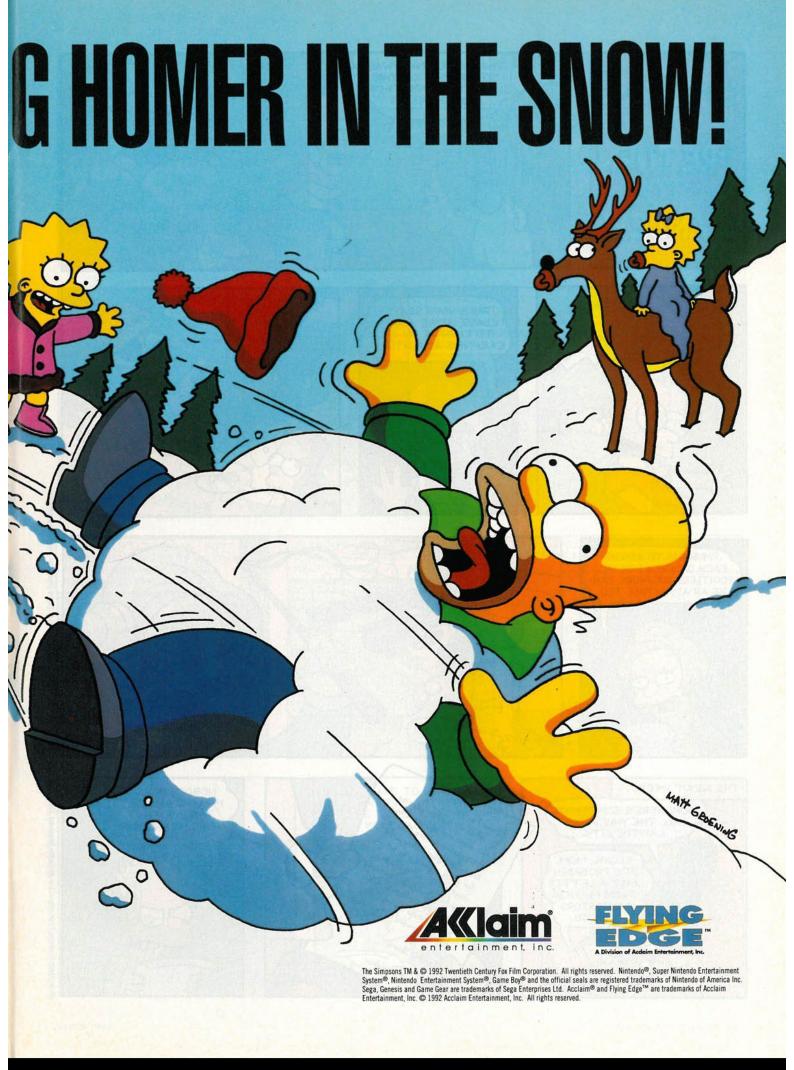


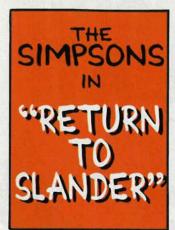
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YNZMEBS:

MORE FUN THAN ROLLIN











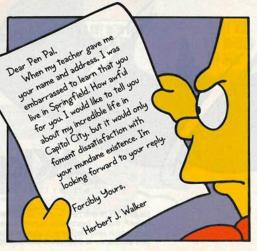


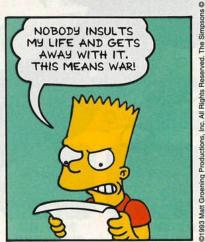












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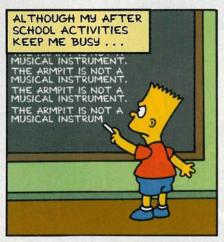




















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We know you're waiting impatiently for the release of *The Yellow Album*, the new musical offering from the Simpsons. You're probably wondering what this forthcoming opus will be like. Well, we can't tell you, but we do know what it *won't* be like. An unauthorized search through record company "reject" files revealed these. . .

SIMPSONS ALBUMS YOU'LL NEVER SEE



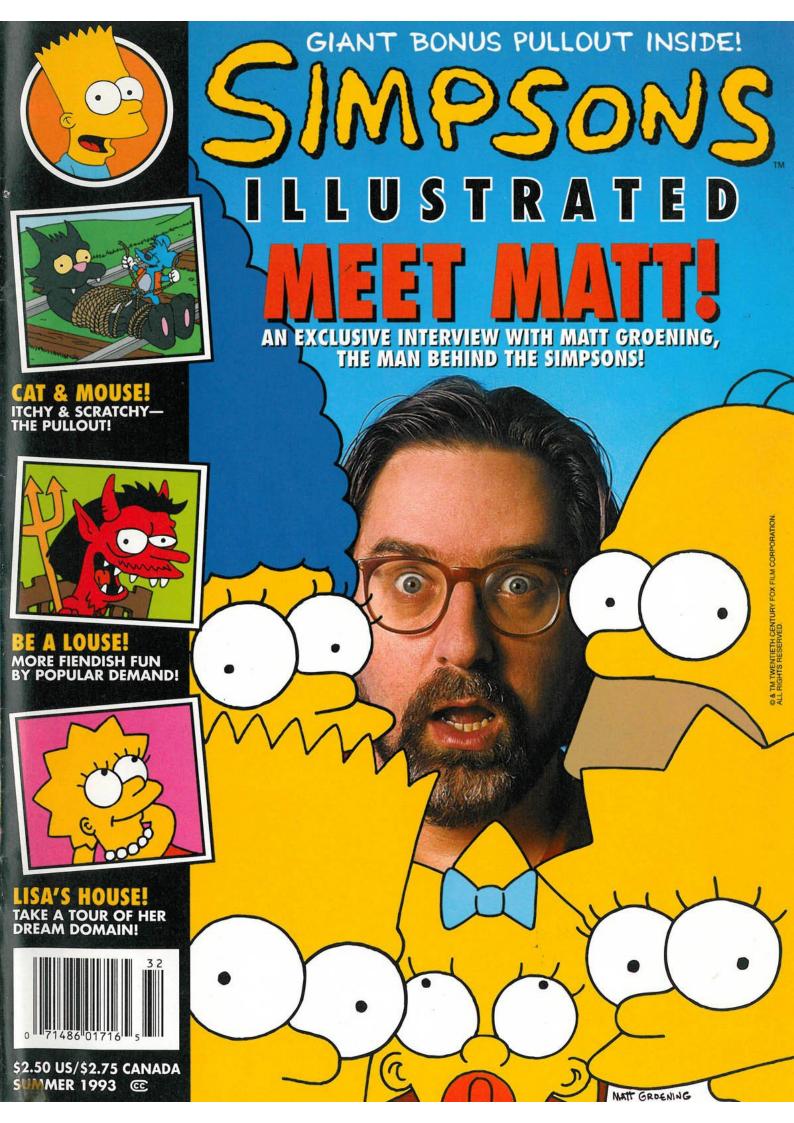














AMAZING



INSIDE 12-PACKS ROOT BEER

THEY BOUGHT A 12-PACK OF BARQ'S AND ENDED UP GETTING ...

DIFFERENT **DESIGNS** THAT LOOK SO REAL THEY'LL MOST GEEKS!

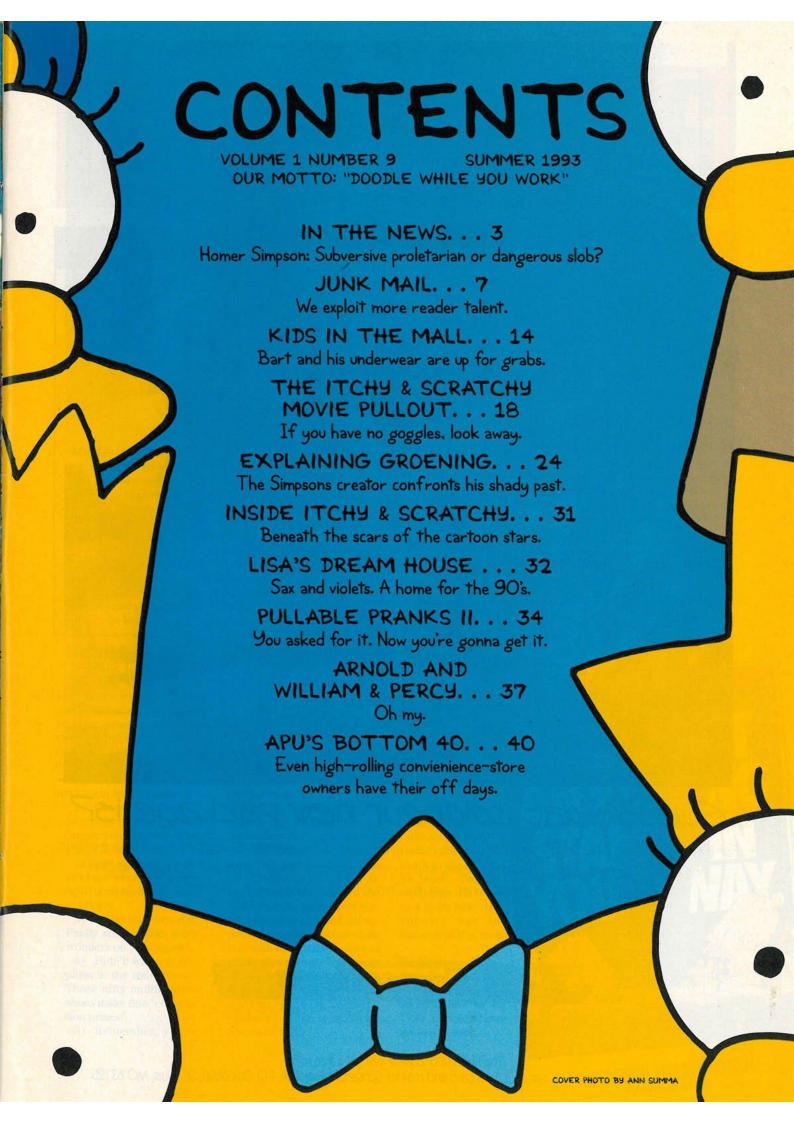


THE ONE WITH BITE!

HI, I'M BUBBY, I'M IN THE BARQTOOS T.V. COMMERCIAL. IT'S IN COLOR



YOU'VE BEEN BARQTOOED!





Guess what color our new package is?

For bite-size blasts of crunchy tropical flavors, just grab a roll of Sunsations. They're bold. They're bright.

And bursting with flavor. Like watermelon, wild cherry, banana, tropical punch and orange/pineapple.

For a free roll, see below. Then look for 'em in living color at your favorite store.





THE FRONT PAGE



With Johnny Carson, Elizabeth Taylor, Bette Midler, Hugh Hefner, and the Red Hot Chili Peppers rushing to the aid of Krusty the Clown in a recent Simpsons episode, the stars just keep on coming . . . Look for Mr. Burns getting a birthday serenade from the Ramones . . . George Harrison comes to appreciate Homer's musical talents . . . Other celebrity guests are still a secret, but here's a hint: They're very famous and they have enormous egos . . . We'll also see Homer go back to college . . . Marge in prison . . . Bart shipwrecked at sea. . . Lisa in dreamland . . . and yet another Halloween special . . . Other works in progress include a Radioactive Man comic book, the long-awaited second Simpsons album, Bart Simpson's Guide to Life (in hardcover), and Cartooning With The Simpsons.

BROTHER, CAN YOU SPARE THE TIME?

You may know the difference between a picket fence and grandma's teeth (obscure bowling terms), but even the most experienced bowler might profitably spare the time it takes to learn Homer Simpson's Bowling Tips as revealed last year in Bowling Magazine:

- 1) Homer's basic law of bowling physics: The louder you yell, the more pins will fall down.
- Don't sip another player's beer when he's gotten up to bowl his frame. Gulp it quickly.
- Playing poorly?
 Faulty addition can work wonders on your score.
- 4) Didn't win any trophies in the tournament? Those nifty multicolored shoes make fine "consolation prizes."
- 5) Remember, you're

there to have fun. The comfort, safety, and mental well-being of others are not your responsibility.

WHEN WE ARE BAD, WE ARE VERY, VERY GOOD

Last year The Simpsons garnered numerous accolades and mention on many yearending "top ten" lists, from sources as diverse as Parent's Choice to the International Animation Society's "Annie" awards. While all are appreciated, one particular list is of paramount importance, an indication from those in the know that the pinnacle of success has been climbed, unsurpassed excellence attained; so it is with no small measure of pride that we at Simpsons Illustrated announce the inclusion of The Simpsons on the right-wing Media Research Center's Top Ten Most Biased Shows of 1992.

BUT CAN I MAJOR IN HOMER?

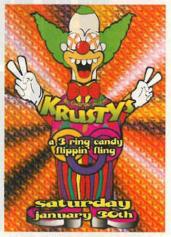
The Idea Network of Wisconsin Public Radio was the forum for an intellectual wrestling match between two college professors and the listening audience last winter as they grappled with a problem that has long been baffling the finest minds: What is the deal with Homer Simpson? The professors had convened a Simpsonsium at Beloit College to assemble the necessary brainpower for the task. Their next day's radio appearance, sharing the Simpsonsium results, generated a huge volume of impassioned calls from the public.

(To bring you a flavor of the discussion without chewing the fat yourself, we have reported the broadcast in the most sensational manner possible. Readers are encouraged to get a real feeling for the program by clearing their throats frequently during the following.)

One perceptive caller thought Homer's

"psychoanalytical difficulty may be due to manipulation of radiation at the nuclear plant." English professor Tom McBride agreed: "Homer regularly carries home a little bit of radioactive material. I think it's stuck to the top of his head.... I'm not really sure. He tosses it to the side. He appears not to know what it is, so it

The Simpsons display their firm grasp of movie theater etiquette on this poster for the 1993 Worldfest-Houston film festival.



Always looking for a new gig, Krusty the Clown makes a highly unauthorized appearance on a flier for a Los Angeles underaround rave.

is conceivable that Homer may be somewhat radiation damaged."

The talk turned to Homer's rejection of God in one episode, which may later have prompted McBride to sigh that "there is



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To mark the smash debut of Simpsons Comics and Stories, its creators autographed hundreds of copies at several Los Angeles comics shops. Above (left to right): Matt Groening, Steve Vance, and Bill Morrison face disgruntled fans who've waited in line for hours only to learn that this was not an Image comic book.

the possibility that God may be somewhat depressed." Seeing his colleague's despondent state, Economics professor Bob Elder lashed out at Homer, calling him "the most self-indulgent character that appears anywhere on television" and accused him of being part of the "dangerous scum class" that Karl Marx warned about in The Communist Manifesto. "In Marx, there are two main classes," Elder said, "the proletariat and the bourgeoisie...Mr. Burns and Smithers are members of the bourgeoisie, who exploit workers...Homer's fellow workers at the plant are members of the proletariat. I think Marx would say that Homer is not a noble revolutionary (proletariat), but belongs to another class...the dangerous class: 'the social scum, that passively rotting mass thrown off by the lowest layers of old society." Elder then called Homer "the bribed tool of reactionary intrigue."

This touched a nerve in the listening public. One caller leapt to Homer's defense, insisting he was a prole, not scum; not "that fringe of society that lives on its wits, a kind of semi-criminal class, the same class from which Hitler got the SA. Being a proletariat is not a subjective thing, it's an objective thing," the caller insisted. "Homer doesn't have to be class-conscious in order to be a member of the proletariat." Elder refused to back down, pointing out that Homer had no aspirations or nobility. At this point McBride attempted to make peace by saying, "I think most of us are selfish in one way or another...In all groups, even groups that pretend to be altruistic, there are probably more Homers than we'd care to realize. They may be more subtle in their selfishness and in their exploitation than Homer, but I suspect there are Homers out there."

The program did end on an uplifting note with McBride admitting "The Simpsons is one of those very very few things in popular culture that I still have in common with my students."

When asked to comment on the show, Homer Simpson replied, "These guys that teach college. Sometimes their brains press too hard against their skulls and they get confused. That's all."

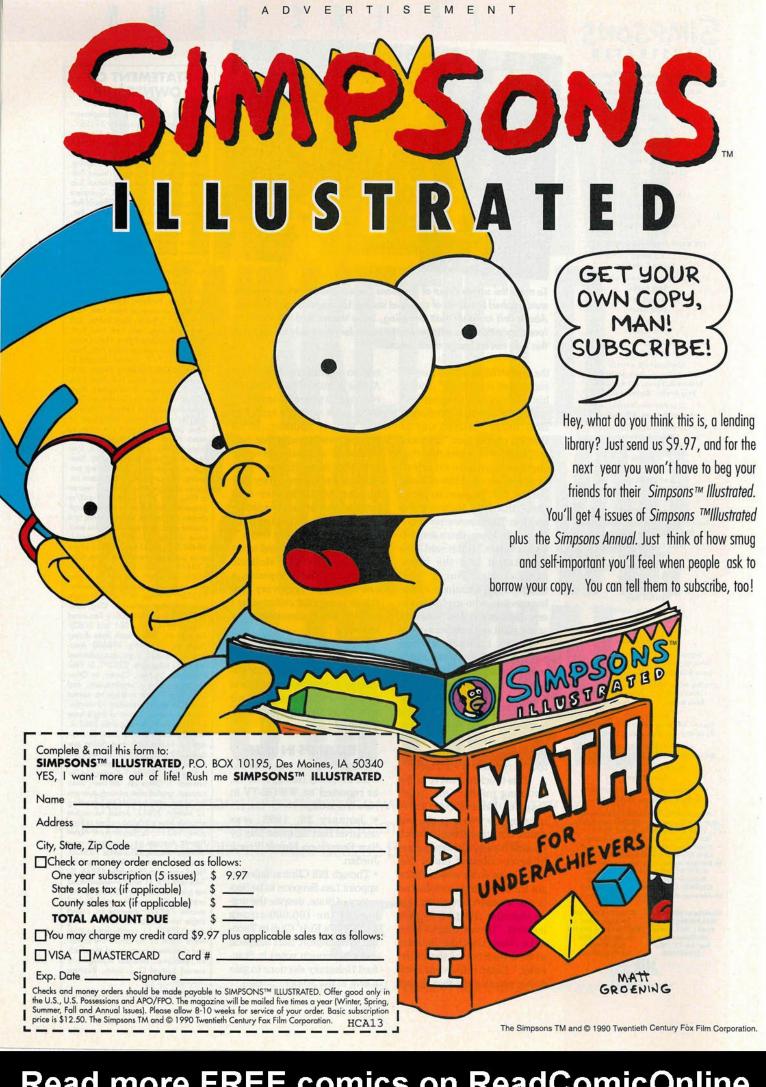
THE SIMPS IN BRIEF

- Marge Simpson was awarded Best Celebrity Hairstyle of '92, as reported by WWOR-TV in New York City.
- · January 26, 1993, was declared Bart Simpson Day by San Francisco Mayor Frank Jordan.
- Though Bill Clinton failed to appoint Lisa Simpson to be Secretary of State, despite the urgings of the 100,000-strong KCPQ-TV's Kids' Club in Tacoma, Washington, Bart Simpson did win enough votes in Stanford University elections to gain a seat in the Student Senate.

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Dear Editor of the best magazine in the world, *Simpsons Illustrated*,

I have a little story to tell you. You know how in volume 1, issue 1, the "School Survival Handbook" has a warning on it that says not to let it fall into the hands of teachers, principals, etc.? Well, last year I was reading this magazine, in fact, that very article, in the hall at lunch, just minding my own business, when all of a sudden, our vice-principal, Mr. Cino, came out of nowhere and took my mag. I

was really nervous. I didn't know what he'd do to jt. But instead of taking it away, he read it and started to laugh! (Boy, was I relieved!)

Ever since then, we've had a great relationship.

However, this year he was transferred, and now we've got a new vice-principal, Mrs. Fort-Sells.

She looks
like she
could use a
laugh. Maybe I can find a way

See you in the funny pages,
Tammy Frakking

to get her to read that article.

Tammy Frakking Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada

Dear Simpsons Illustrated, I love your magazine. It is full of exciting and enjoyable info. Last school year

I got a detention for having The Simpsons School Rules thing that is in the back of each issue.

Well, I better get going.

—Melissa Miller Union, CA

issa "SITTING BART
iller INDIAN CHIEF"
Adthew Webster,
Wisconsin Rapids, WI

Detention again, Melissa? Have you considered transferring to the Canadian school system (see previous letter)?

Dear Editor,

Dennis Dewey,

Blanchard, OK

I love your magazines very much, especially the things in them that pertain to the Simpsons' life. My question is this: Is it possible to

obtain the Simpsons shorts from the Tracey Ullman Show on video? Thanks!

P.S. Looking forward to new episodes and the new album!

> —Sabrina Stewart Stanton, CA



Michael Miller, East Stroudsburg, PA

simpsons are still wearing those shorts. Seriously, at the moment there are no plans to release the Tracey Ullman Show episodes. As

Sorry, Sabrina, the

soon as we hear differently, we'll let you know.

Dear Simpsons magazine, The Simpsons are too al. My favorite

real. My favorite character is Lisa Simpson (Yeardley Smith).

This statue of Maggie (I'm sure they didn't plan it) I found outside of a school in Wichita, Kansas.

-Keith Monson Wichita, KS

Well, as fate would have it, that school is the old Alma Mater of our own Creative Director, Cindy Vance (who was once busted for smoking cigarettes at the very spot where this statue now stands). Talk about coincidence!

Dear Simpsons Illustrated,

On the episode where Maggie speaks, she says "Daddy," but on the episode where Herb Powell goes to the Simpsons' house and borrows money to make a baby translator, how come Maggie can't



Keith Monson, Wichita, KS

ingfield



"BART URKEL" Andrea Waite, Edmonton, Canada

speak then?

Simpsonly yours,

Maggie just didn't feel

like talking right

then, Josh. As for

Homer, medical sci-

ence is still baffled -

for many reasons.

Dear Simpsons

Simpsons Illustrat-

I did not like the

ed of Winter 1993. It attacked

the former President, George

Bush, and former Vice Presi-

dent, Dan Quayle, too much. I

read the letter from a Miss

Jane Ann Evan from Henrietta.

Texas. I didn't like the way she

Illustrated,

On the episode where Homer has heart attacks, how did he stay alive after having that many?

Well, I guess that's it for

attacked the President and Vice President. No one should attack the President or Vice President the way Miss Jane Ann Evan did. You should respect them whether you like

A straight answer? From us? You wrote to the wrong magazine, Suzanne! Just remember, freedom of expression is guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution, and we at Simpsons Illustrated respect your rights as much as we respect Jane Ann Evan's. Dear Simpsons Illustrated, You didn't publish my pic-

this winter edition went too

far! I may be a Republican, a

Democrat, or an Independent,

but I say everyone should

respect the President and Vice

President. Some people may

not like the President or the

Vice President but if they are smart they would respect them

and not attack them. I have

one question, and I would like

a straight answer please!

Are you Republicans or

-Suzanne S. Badieozzaman Huntington Beach, CA

Democrats?

ture. I didn't do it just for fun,

-Aviva Zieleniec Toronto, Ontario, Canada

We've inadvertently taught you an inexpensive yet important lesson, Aviva. If some-

thing isn't fun, it isn't worth doing in the first place. (We get hundreds of letters and pictures every issue. We print as many as we can, but please don't take it personally if yours isn't one of them.)

P.S. My Uncle Jimmy is lefthanded and talks like Ned Flanders, too.

Enclosed, please find a

picture of our Uncle Jimmy. If

you ever have a Ned Flanders

look-alike contest, I'd like to

enter him. Uncanny, don't you

-Autumn Steitz

Clovis, CA

Dear Editor,

think?

Autumn Stietz, Clovis, CA

Yikes! When we're casting the live-action Simpsons movie we'll give your Uncle Jimmy a call.

Dear Editor,

In your latest edition, Winter 1993, there was a fold-out poster of the Simpsons characters. One of the Flanders children is missing on it. Why?

-Ryland Ferguson Oregon City, OR P.S. Why isn't Mrs. Flanders on it either?

P.P.S. This isn't meant to criticize; it's just a mere question.



"THE GRIM SIMPSON" Eric Peters, South Portland, ME

them or not. The (1-10) good deeds that Bart did weren't so outrageous, even though I like Bart. I may like your magazine and TV show very much, but



Quincy E. Batts, Anchorage, AK



Andrew Sheppard II, Lithonia, GA



Sarah Benson, Virginia Beach, VA



Jaime Nemitt, Toronto, OH

Rod Flanders is not pictured because it was he who took the photo. Meanwhile, Maude Flanders was busy setting up a simple yet elegant buffet dinner for everyone following the photo session.

Dear Editor,

When I first saw Simpsons Illustrated on the newsstand, I thought it would be childish or too young for someone my age (14 years old). When my sister bought it, I read it and it was very interesting and fun to read. It's also cool, because it has so much reader input. The editors really want to know what you think about the magazine.

Yours watchfully,

Nicolas Barr Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada

Nothing beats sucking up to the editors as a way to get a letter printed, eh, Nic?

Dear Simpsons Illustrated,

I am a big Simpsons freak. I draw Simpsons on my books at school and draw pictures at home. I wish that "PAUL McBARTNEY" The Simpsons was on three times a week. I just want

to know one thing: why is Barney always at Moe's?

Joe Teichman

Owosso, MI

-Adrian

LeBlanc Toronto, Ontario, Canada Adrian dear, Barney is a drunk and Moe's is bar. It's like asking why a fish is always in water.

> Peter Balsano, Dorchester, Ontario, Canada

Dear Matt Groening,

In your 1992 summer issue of Simpsons Illustrated, you

did a "Behind the Scenes" called "Bart from the Start," which showed how David Silverman, Wes Archer, and yourself created guidelines for the Simpsons' appearance.

I thought it was very creative how you guys designed these

simple (almost) ways to draw the Simpsons.

Maybe you should make a book on how to create the Simpsons or make a similar

copy of the "style book" open to the public. I think it would be a great addition to your growing series of Simpsons books.

> -Kelly Kies Phoenix, AZ P.S. I hope no one else has thought of this!

Sorry, Kelly, someone already has -

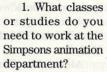
our book editor. We're working on it right now. Tentatively titled "Cartooning With The Simpsons," it should be in the stores by Christmas.

Dear Simpsons Anima-

Hello, my name is Joe Chomiak, and I'm very interested in animation and creation for The Simpsons. I've seen every episode at least two times, studying their every move and action. The characters you've created are the top of the line. I've got all of the Simpsons Illustrated

magazines and enjoy them very much. I have a few questions I'd like you to answer,

please:



- 2. How do you select your animators?
- 3. To work for Simpsons animation, do you need to have taken college courses?

These are just some of the questions I would like to ask. Please write back explaining this info.

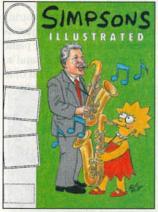
Thanks.

Jason Coleman,

Goodlettsoille, TN

-Joe Chomiak LaConner, WA

Animators are usually hired on the basis of a portfolio of



Robert McGee. Albany, GA

sample drawings, Joe. Many develop their portfolios in college, while studying art. A lot of animators attend Cal Arts, a school near Los Angeles with a well-known animation program. Some studied animation on their own and never went to college. The real key is practice-LOTS of practice. Keep drawing, and good luck!



Dear Editor.

I have noticed that during the opening animation, just as Homer leaves the power plant, Mr. Burns wiggles his hand as if to shake something off of it. Is this significant?

> -James H. Vipond Brookings, SD

The five o'clock whistle has just blown, signalling quitting time, but Burns' watch says 4:58. He's shaking it to see whether his watch has stopped or the whistle has blown early. (He later docked everyone two minutes' pay.)

Dear Matt Groening,

My sister just had a baby named Dario. (Too bad she wouldn't name him Bart, like I suggested.) With my older brother, I restored a cupboard that was originally built by my father's godfather before World War II, and offered it to Dario. We decided to paint the Simpson family on it because we are great fans.

> -Samuel Durt (El Durto) Brussels, Belgium

Dear Mr. Groening,

I have a few questions about the magazine.

1. Is there ever going to be a profile (like Ms. Krabappel's desk, the Simpsons' refrigerator, Homer's work file, and so on) of Itchy and Scratchy's dressing room?

2. Will you ever make a fold-out poster of Radioactive Man?

3. In the Winter 1992 issue, what was the emblem on the bottom row of stickers on Mrs. Krabappel's desk?

4. How big is a skosh (in "Ned Flanders' Top 40," Winter

Also in the Winter 1992 issue, I tried all of the "Pullable Pranks" on my friends,



Samuel Durt, Brussels, Belgium

teachers, parents, and the police chief. Thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you. I will never have to use a whoopee cushion or whippersnapper again.

Sincerely (yeah, right!),

Justin Bellavita Waldport, OR

1. We'll consider it—do any of you other readers want to see it?

poster in the first issue of Simpsons Comics and Stories. If you missed it, you may be able to find a copy at your local comics shop.

3. They said "See You Again Next Year."

4. Halfway between a smidge and a pinch.

Dear Editor,

Do you know which twin is Sherri and which one is Terri? I can't tell the difference.

> -Kerri Wolfensberger Hagerstown, MD

Sherri has a birthmark in the shape of the nuclear power plant on her left shoul-

derblade-or is that Terri ...?

Dear folks at Simpsons Illustrated,

I really enjoyed the interview with Nancy Cartwright in the Fall 1992 issue. I've been a fan of Ms. Cartwright's excellent performance since the days when she was doing the voice of Gloria, Richie Rich's girlfriend. The interview was very good, though there was something that should have been mentioned.

The article should have mentioned Ms. Cartwright's excellent performance in a

> for-TV movie

called Marion Rose White. Here's wishing you guys the best of luck. Keep up the good work on Simpsons Illustrated!

> -Peter W. Guerin Hudson Falls, NY

Dear Editor, I do not find the comic "William and



Anita Drieseberg, Burlington, Ontario, Canada

Percy" funny. Sometimes it's so sloppy I can't read it. How old is the person who draws

and writes the comic strip? I like the rest of the magazine a lot.

> -Jennifer Hewson East Meadow, NY

Internationally famous artist/ cartoonist Gary Panter

designed the sets for Peewee's Playhouse, has done album covers for such artists as The Red Hot Chili Peppers and Frank Zappa, and created the cartoon character Jimbo. Chronologically speaking, at least, he is a full-grown

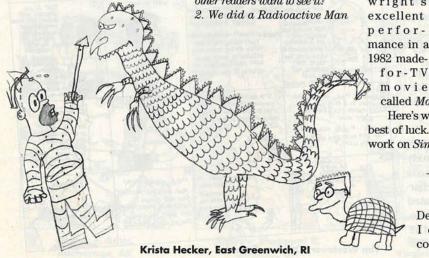


"WHAT IF IT STRETCHED?" Annie Sam, Dana Point, CA

Dear person or persons who are reading this,

adult.

You guys don't really tell us readers much about the family, like, for instance, what is Homer's middle name? You might have already said it, but I missed it. A lot of my friends think I'm weird 'cause I'm so crazy about Bart. They also don't believe his middle name is Jo Jo. Where did he get it, anyway?



Do whatever you do, and I'll be on my way.

> -Seth Pettig St. Charles, MI

Homer claims that he, like President Harry S. Truman, has no middle name, just a middle initial. Bart got his middle name as a result of Homer losing a bar bet.

Dear S.I.,

Regarding Joshua Olson's letter to your publication in the Fall 1992 issue, what the heck does "maliferous" mean (and how is it that a giant sea turtle could assist a two-yearold with a letter)? I don't understand.

I searched for the definition of "maliferous" in my home dictionary and those in the public and school libraries with no success. For those of us who read the text and do not just look at the pictures, we need to know!

Sincerely,

Tom Vass Prospect Heights, IL

"Maliferous" means "a state of irritation or confusion caused by being tricked into looking up nonexistent words in the dictionary."

Dear Sirs,

I thought I would share these masks with you. The



Carolyn Corner, Elkins, WV

"Bart" mask was made because my boy is a Bart Simpson nut. He is only 3 years old



"HILLBILLY HOMER" Sharla Kistner, Fair Grove, MO

but knows who Bart is. He also acts like him.

We also made a "Marge" mask. We haven't got around to making "Homer" yet, but he is on the agenda.

> -Carolyn Comer Elkins, WV

Dear Simpsons Illustrated,

My favorite section in the Winter 1993 issue is "Colossal

Retorts," because my mom and dad are always bugging me about my room. In fact, I'm supposed to be cleaning my room right now.

Your friend,

Jenny Wildermuth Port Byro, IL

Writing us instead of cleaning your room? It's always good to know that our readers have their priorities straight, Jen.

Dear Simpsons Illustrated,

Thank you for your show. Our oldest daughter decided to play saxophone like Lisa and is now in her second year of music lessons. Her version of "Jingle Bell Rock" is won-

As long as I am writing, have you heard this one? Any name ending in the word 'son" signifies "son of": "Davidson" means "son of David," "Johnson" means "son of John." By this theory, "Simpson" means "son of Simp." Who was the original Simp?

> -Mary Gollihugh, North East, PA

The original Simp was Homer Erectus who, tens of thousands of years ago, led his family down from the trees in hopes of finding a donut shop.

Dear Mr. Groening,

I wanted to write so I could tell you how much I enjoy The Simpsons. I have some questions about the characters.

1. Why don't Lisa, Bart, and Maggie have hairlines? Is it easier to draw?

2. Whatever happened to Homer's mom? Did she die in childbirth?

3. Will there ever be a Simpsons movie?

4. Will Laura (Bart's love) ever be on the show again? 5. Will Maggie ever talk on

the show again? 6. How much longer will the show be on TV?

Your show's the best! All of my friends hate it. Most people are too blind to see the morals of the show. My favorite

episode was "New Kid on the Block." My favorite character is Marge.

Your show is the most realistic I've ever

seen. I LOVE THE SIMPSONS!

Simpsonly yours,

Shana Snyder St. Thomas, PA



Mary Gollihugh, North East, PA

Either educate your old friends or get new ones, Shana. As for your questions: 1. Matt likes the way they look

without hairlines. 2. Homer's mom said she was

going to the store one day and never came back.

3. Maybe, if Matt and the crew can find the time and if Bart drops his demand for a chauffeur-driven monster truck to drive him to the set every day.

4. Probably not, unless you count reruns.

> 5. Only if she gets to write her own dialogue. 6. Until Matt feels that enough people have been sufficiently annoyed by the show.



"HOMER SNOW WHITE" Jordan Masselli, Muskegon, MI

COVER US, INDEED!

Once again, you, our dear readers, have come through with flying colors. And once again our offices have been inundated with cartload upon cartload of artwork spawned by your twisted and tortured minds. On display here are a few we skimmed off the top (we could wade only so far into the room!). Thank you all for contributing. And no, you don't get any prizes...just the everlasting glory of having your work printed here. So be thankful, ingrates!



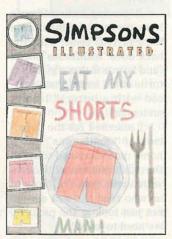
David Puckett, Cave City, KY



Taopat Kao, New York, NY



Chris MacLennan, Newcastle, ME



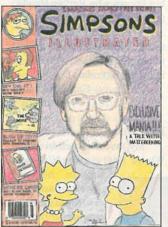
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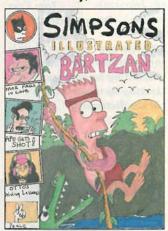
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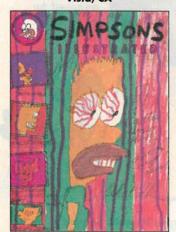
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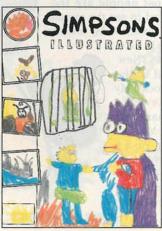
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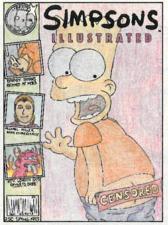
Steven M. Smith Albuquerque, NM



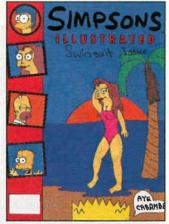
Tammy Frakking, Niagara Falls, Ont., CAN



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Michael Miller, East Stoudsburg, PA



Cody Dingle, Kelsey, CA



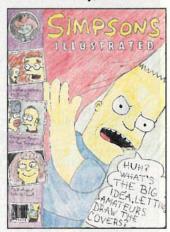
Trevor Austin Kirby, Denver, CO



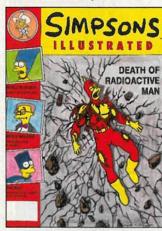
Blain Hefner, Iowa Park, TX



Kyle Helton, Floyd, NM



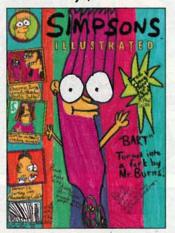
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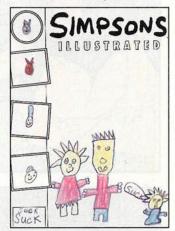
Kirk Jason Beins, Republic of Singapore



Tory Newmyer, Washington, D.C.



Kristina Davis, Rifle, CO



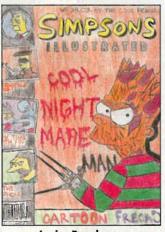
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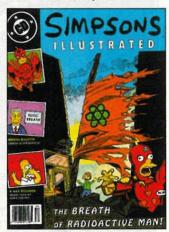
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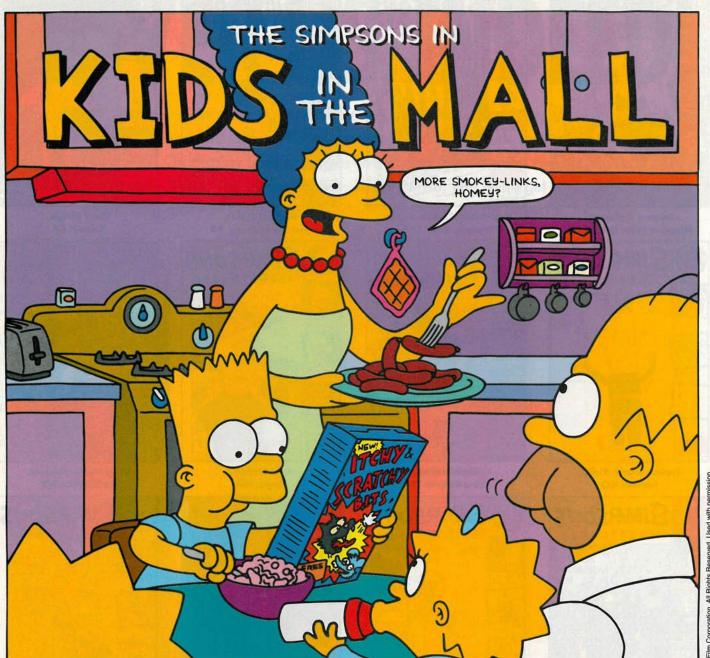
Mike Haire, Matsqui, B.C., CAN



Javier Barahona, La Puente, CA



Martin Gilbert, St. Augustin, Quebec, CAN







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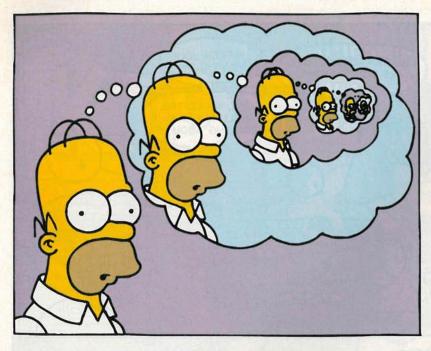






SUMMER 1993

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED 15



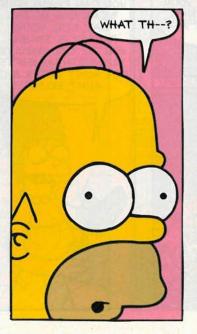






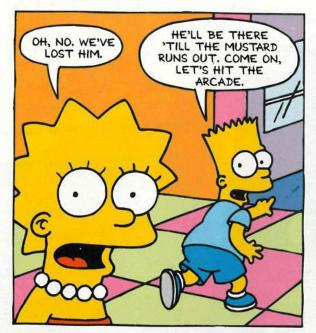






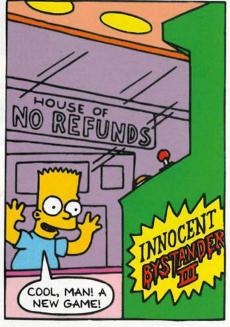


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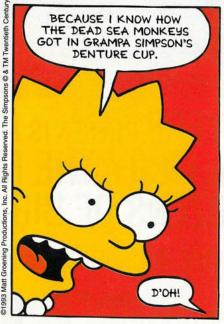


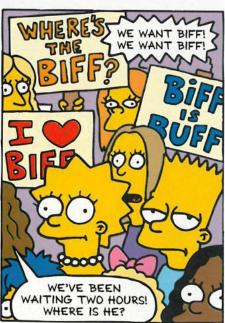








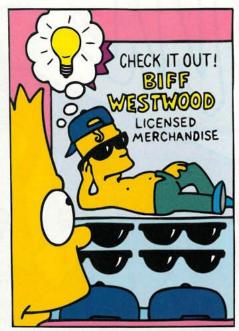


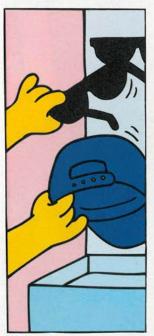
























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BEHIND THE SCENES







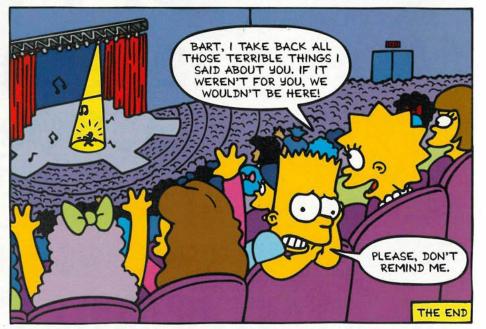




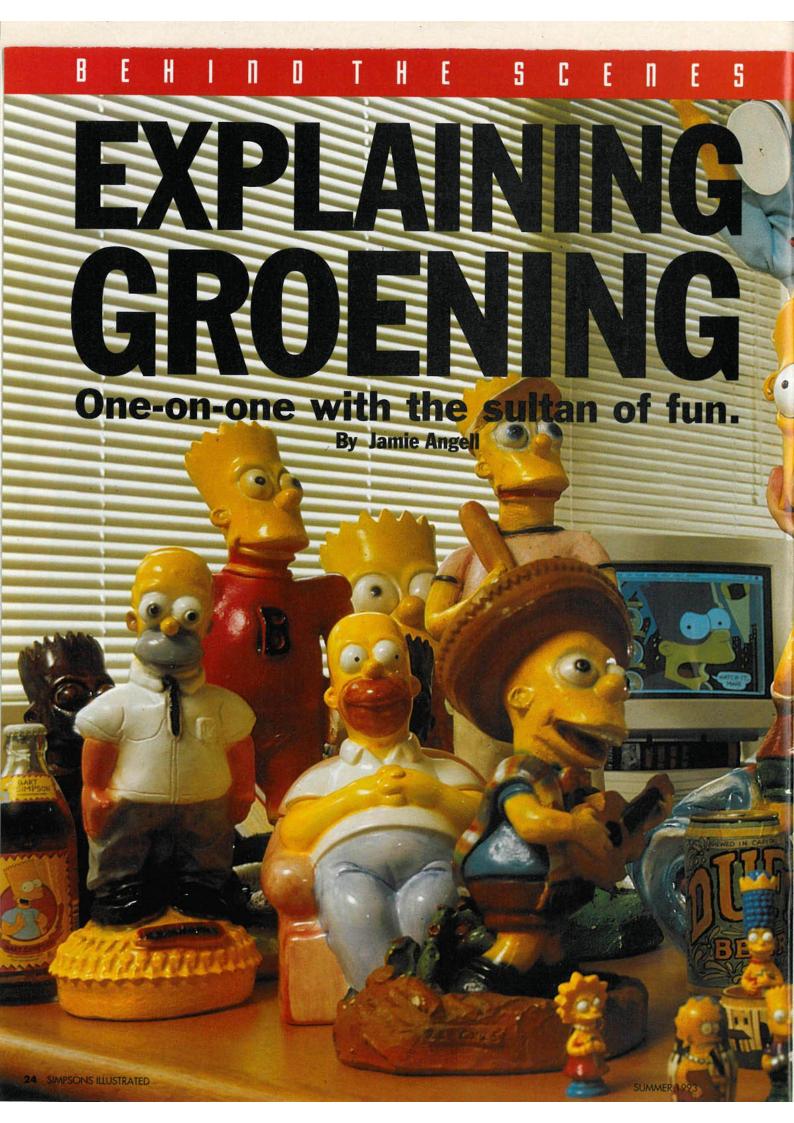








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I have known Matt Groening longer than I'd care to remember. He has been making me laugh and getting me into trouble since grade school. We were kicked off our school newspaper, and elected to student government. We formed the infamous Banana Gang and its rival, the Teens for Decency, as well as the Komix Appreciation Klub, an organization devoted to publicizing and reporting elaborate conferences and raucous parties that never took place. Due to the statute of limitations I am unable to reveal more recent events, but I can tell you that he was partially responsible for my changing my name for four years.

-Jamie Angell

THE EARLY YEARS OF STRUGGLE: Angell (left) and Groening intentionally writing the worst poetry imaginable to submit to the high school literary magazine.

MATT GROENING: Question? SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: Question?

GROENING: I'm waiting.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: Oh! All right. I thought you were just . . . ummm . . . oh. GROENING: I'm not gonna rant. Have to

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: I'd rather you rant, but What do you hope The Simpsons does to people who watch it?

GROENING: Well, you know how irritating it is when other people try to change you?

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: Mm-

GROENING: But trying to change other people — that is one of the greatest delights in the world. So I try to delight myself.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: Can you change them?

GROENING: Irritate them. I mean change them.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED:

Irritate and change them. GROENING: It's always fun kids know this - to tell a joke that makes all the kids

laugh but which confuses and annoys the teacher. And that's what I try to do as a grown-up - entertain part of the audience and annoy another part. I don't want to get too scientific, but you can divide people into two groups: the Daffy Ducks and the Elmer Fudds. The Daffys are the people who laugh and annoy other people, and the Elmers are the ones who don't laugh and get annoyed. And there's plenty of 'em.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: That's true. **GROENING:** Which makes life very fun. 'Cause if you're a Daffy Duck, you must try to provoke the Elmer Fudds. The fact is, Elmers are annoying too, so if you can annoy them back, and also make the Daffys happy, then you not only feel entertained, you also feel . . .

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: When did you first get an inkling of

morally superior.

"You can divide people into two groups: **Daffy Ducks and** Elmer Fudds."

this Elmer/Daffy theory?

GROENING: It happened in the first grade, when kids are pretty innocent little creatures. We were all standing in a circle out on the playground, and Mrs. Hoover said, "Quiet, children," and I, in my youthful exuberance, let loose with this high-pitched shriek.

> And Mrs. Hoover said, "All right, who blew that whistle?" Well, there was no whistle, it was just me shrieking, so I clammed up, and Mrs. Hoover went crazy searching the kids for the whistle. It was quite amusing. She couldn't believe that these little six-year-olds were denying they knew who had that whistle. But there was no whistle. That was the crafty part.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: So you kind of stumbled into

GROENING: And the rest of my life has been blowing invisible whistles and making people wonder.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: Did

you find you had any allies, or were you pretty much blowing a whistle by yourself?

GROENING: Well, you were a co-conspirator, Jamie. And The Simpsons is staffed by a bunch of people who you can tell were wisenheimers when they were kids.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: Was it more difficult to be a Daffy Duck when you were younger?

GROENING: Too many school rules are arbitrarily assigned just because grown-

ups feel kids should be controlled. Most

kids are creative and rambunctious enough to realize that these rules are stupid, but they instinctively humor adults. There are some great, dedicated teachers out there working under appalling conditions, and they need all the support they can get. But even the outstanding teachers often get engulfed by the edicts from above, which makes their good work that much more difficult.

And over the years the good teachers and the kids are gradually forced to buckle down and comply with arbitrary authority. It seems the main rule that traditional schools teach is how to sit in

rows quietly, which is perfect training for grown-up work in a dull office or factory, but not so good for education.

And what a few of us did is realize, Hey, that's not the life for us - so we started trying to entertain ourselves. Sometimes that entertainment took the form of pointless pranks and dimwitted wisecracking. But some of it was more creative. We did puppet shows, drew cartoons, wrote plays, made movies, drew comic books, and all the rest.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: If, as a kid, most everyone has a sense that things are screwy, how is it that, as adults, we perpetuate the screwiness?

GROENING: Well, most grown-ups forget what it was like to be a kid. I vowed that I would never forget. I also found child's play — stuff that was not considered serious, but goofy — was the stuff I liked to do, so I still do it as an adult. Living creatively is really important to maintain throughout your life. And living creatively doesn't mean only artistic creativity, although that's part of it. It means being yourself, not just complying with the wishes of other people.

The dismal reality is that a lot of people have to work at crummy jobs that they don't want to do. But even if you have a crummy job, you have to save a part of yourself, maybe a secret part, and do the things you want, so that you can be yourself. I'd like to

"Most grown-ups forget what it was like to be a kid. I vowed I would never forget."

think that's one of the hidden messages of The Simpsons. It's a show about people who don't know that secret, but the making of the show is an example of that secret. Sometimes people get mad at The Simpsons' subversive story telling, but there's another message in there, which is a celebration of making wild, funny stories.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: Why is it that so many people think the Simpsons are bad role models?

GROENING: A lot of people believe that if everybody just did what they were told obeyed — everything would be fine. But that's not what life is all about. That's not real. It's never going to happen.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: Then why do they believe it?

GROENING: I'm not sure. Psychologically, you know, as infants, we think we're omnipotent. We think we've created the universe and that everything responds to our whims. Then lousy reality sets in. We find out that the world does not correspond to our vision, and some of us continue to fight back for the rest of our lives. I'm not saying that people on the other side are wrong. I just think theirs is not an attitude which brings any kind of profound happiness. In fact, if anything, it brings profound unhappiness.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: It seems like they're trying to live some idea of a correct life rather than living their

own life.

GROENING: One of the things I like to do is make up stories that I would have enjoyed when I was a kid. So, if I'm thinking about an audience, it's usually a younger version of myself. When I watch The Simpsons I think, "Man, I would've really liked this cartoon when I was a kid."

If I could speak from the future to my younger self, I'd say a couple of things: Keep your spirits up, because things are going to get a lot better when you get out of high school. You're going to meet a lot more people who are interested in creative weirdness as a social activity. And: Save your work! No matter how stupid you think it is at the time. Keep a diary. Keep drawing. Save your art. Save your comic books. Especially save your comic books.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: Yeah. Definitely. Boy.

GROENING: And put the stuff in a cardboard box and keep it in your closet. And when you go away to college, or to your job at the oyster-shucking factory, don't let your mom throw it away take it with you. And don't touch any of the stuff in the box until you've washed the oyster juice off your hands.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: What else do you do outside The Simpsons?

GROENING: I draw a weekly comic strip called Life in Hell, which is syndicated in about 250 newspapers. That's what I did before The Simpsons, and what I plan to do for the rest of my life.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: What do you

MATT'S TOP 100

BOOK, MOVIE, MUSIC, TV, COMIC STRIP, OTHER

1. Vietnamese spring rolls or sex. 2. Frank Zappa's Lumpy Gravy, Uncle Meat, Burnt Weenie Sandwich, Hot Rats, The Yellow Shark, etc. 3. Scuba diving. 4. Lynda Barry's Ernie Pook's Comeek. 5. Igor Stravinsky's The Rite of Spring (2ano version). 6. Gary Panter's Jimbo. 7. The Wizard of Oz, directed by Victor Fleming. 8. Joseph Heller's Catch-22 and Something Happened. 9. Carol Reed's The Third Man. 10. Oliver Messiaen's Turangalila Symphony and Oiseaux Exotiques. 11. J.D. Salinger's Catcher in the Rye. 12. Satiyajit Ray's Apu trilogy. 13. Charlie Chaplin's The Circus. 14. Raymond Scott's "Powerhouse." 15. Lee "Scratch" Perry's Blackboard Jungle Dub. 16. Stanley Kubrick's Lolita and Dr. Strangelove. 17. Sam Raimi's Evil Dead II. 18. Yma Sumac's Mambo! 19. Ernie Bushmiller's Nancy and Sluggo comic strips. 20. Buster Keaton's Seven Chances and Steamboat Bill Jr. 21. Irvin D. Yalom's Existential Psychotherapy. 22. Anything by Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys and Milton Brown and His Musical Brownies. 23. Henry A. Shute's *The Real Diary of a Real Boy.* 24. Anything by the Comedian Harmonists. 25. Dr. Seuss's *On Beyond* Zebra. 26. Ronald Searle's The Female Approach. 27. Mal Waldron and Eric Dolphy's The Quest. 28. G. Legman's Rationale of the Dirty Joke and No Laughing Matter. 29. A Volta, by Ed Lincoln (1966 Brazilian album—if anyon 30. Nino where I can get a stereo copy of this, let me know). 30. Nino Rota's Juliet of the Spirits soundtrack. 31. Glen Gray and the Casa Loma Orchestra's Glen Gray in Hi-Fi. 32. Anything by Erik Satie. 33. Tom Kah Kai soup. 34. Captain Beefhe d the Magic Band's Trout Mask Replica. 35. The New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival. 36. Ron & Sti n. 39. Albert Brooks's Lost in America. 40. Wim Wenders's Wings of Desire. 41. Son House's Death Letter. 42. Jackie Chan's Project A, Part 2. rs (with Diana Rigg). 44. Kurt Vonnegut's Cat's Cradle. 45. Eric Knights's You Play the Black a Red Comes Up. 46. Anything by Bob & Ray. 47. Tuli Kupferberg's 1001 Ways to Beat the Draft. 48. Tobias Wolf's This Boy's Life. 49. The Trumpet Kings Meet Big Joe Turner. 50. (Acres. 51. R.D. Laing's Knots. 52. Kids the Hall. 53. The Fugs' It Crawled Into My Hand, Honest. 54. Carl Barks' Uncle Scrooge comics. 55. "Mistakes," by Madness. 56. Thrift Store Paintings, edited by Jim Shaw. 57. Richard Lester's How I Won the War. 58. Nicole Hollander's Sylvia. 59. Cartoons by Heather MacAdams. 60. David Boswell's Reid Fleming, World's Toughest Milkman comics. 61. Peter Bagge's Hate comics. 62. Daniel Clowes' Eightball comics. 63. The Bonzo Dog Band's Cornology. 64. Suburbia, a book of photographs by Bill Owens. 65. Doug Allen's Steven comics. 66. Bananas. 67. Dennis P. Eichorn's Real Stuff comics. 68. Anything by "Big" John Patton (my favorite jazz organist). 69. "Man in the Street," by Don Drummond (classic driving 1965 ska instrumental). 70. Andrew Sarris's The American Cinema: Directors and Directions 1929-1968. 71. George Antheil's Ballet Mechanique. 72. The Compleat Tex Avery (laserdisc box). 73. Eric Berne's Games People Play. 74. William Cameron Menzies's Invaders from Mars. 75. James M. Cain's The Postman Always Rings Twice. 76. "Crazy," by Patsy Cline. 77. Henry Kane's Armchair in Hell.
78. Raymond Carver's Will You Please Be Quiet, Please? 79. George Miller's The Road Warrior. 80. William Kotzwinkle's The Fan Man. 81. Robert Grudin's Time and the Art of Living. 82. Alice Miller's The Drama of the Gifted Child. 83. The Wizard of Oz, by Salman Rushdie (British Film Institute book on the film). 84. John Lennon's In His Own Write and A Spaniard in the Works. 85. Art by Kenny Scharf. 86. Martin Denny's Exotica. 87. Flannery O'Connor's Collected Fawlty Towers. 90. Esquivel's Infinity in Sound Vol. 2. 91. Dr. Seuss's The 5000 Fingers of Dr. T. 92. David nberger's Duplex Planet magazine. 93. Kampung Boy and Town Boy, by Lat (Malaysian cartoonist's autobiograp ical books-I'm desperate for copies of these). 94. Jim Woodring's Frank in the River comics. 95. Harvey Pekar's American Splendor comics. 96. The Golden Age of Looney Toons, Vols. 1-3 (laserdisc boxes). 97. Cartoons by Rowle Emmett (old Punch cartoonist). 98. Joel and Ethan Coen's Blood Simple. 99. A Critique of Religion and Philosophy by Walter Kaufmann. 100. Any video bloopers featuring small animals biting TV personalities.

use to draw your strip?

GROENING: I use Rotring rapidograph pens, which come with easy-to-change ink cartridges. The pens are colorcoded — I use the blue one (.70) to draw the characters and dialog, the brown one (.50) to draw very tiny lettering, and the orange one (2.0) to draw dialog balloons and the edges of the frames. I draw it twice as large as it's printed, on two-ply Bristol paper, and shrink it down. When you shrink things down, it reduces the wobbliness of the lines — and I need all the help I can get.

I used to use a Koh-I-Noor Artpen, the one with a yellow barrel and a very flexible nib, but the company stopped making it, and didn't respond to my desperate plea to buy any extras lying around the warehouse. If anyone out there knows how I can get this pen, or at least its nibs, please contact

Simpsons Illustrated. A frustrated cartoonist will be very grateful.

SIMPSONS ILLUS-TRATED: What did you draw with when you were a kid?

GROENING: Felt-tip pens, which are really fun to draw with, but I warn you: they fade. Eventually the ink disappear. You've got to draw on good paper, too. Otherwise, the paper will turn as yellow as the Simpsons, and eventually crumble.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED:

Did you plan to become a cartoonist? **GROENING:** I never thought that I would, because all my friends could draw better than I could, except you.

(Bemused laughter)

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: And that's the truth.

(Frivolity continues)

GROENING: I met Lynda Barry at The Evergreen State College — cool place, no grades - and she was drawing crazy cartoons at the time. Her cartoons were so wild, they inspired me to continue plugging away.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: What other in-

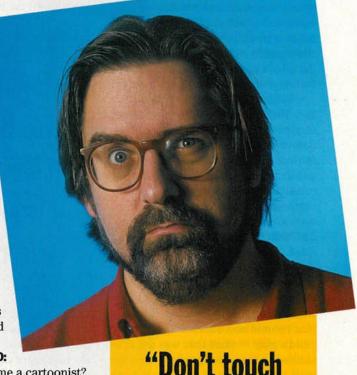
spirations do you draw on?

GROENING: I love checking out just about everything that's put out for entertainment and intellectual consumption: music, art, movies, TV, literature, advertising, pinball machines, bubble gum cards, cereal boxes, black velvet portraits of the Smurfs. I try not to let anything in our culture be either too high or too low for me. I have a little trouble with stuff at the very bottom at the pile, the mean, ugly stuff. And I also have real problems with 19th-century French art songs.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: Clearly, you make a lot of references to popular culture, both high and low, in The Simpsons.

GROENING: That's not just me. A lot of talented writers work on the show,

half of them



any of the stuff in the box until you've washed the oyster juice off your hands."

SUMMER 1993 28 SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED

Harvard geeks. And you know, when you study the semiotics of *Through the Looking Glass* or watch every episode of *Star Trek*, you've got to make it pay off, so you throw a lot of study references into whatever you do later in life.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: How do you feel about the magnitude of *The Simpsons*' success?

GROENING: It's impossible to keep in mind how many millions of people watch TV. The numbers continue to stagger me. Another staggering thing is the huge number of people who have jobs because of *The Simpsons*. It's spun off into merchandising, books, syndication, advertising, law suits, and this magazine. These freakish little doodles keep a lot of people gainfully employed, at least part-time.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: Hallelujah.

GROENING: The Simpsons is an especially collaborative show. Jim Brooks, a true genius, gave me my first break on The Tracey Ullman Show, and he's always fought to maintain a level of emotional realism in The Simpsons when the temptation is to just go wacky. I'm grateful to Mike Reiss and Al Jean, who are brilliantly funny workaholic writers, a rare combination. They pushed the show into more ambitious and complicated areas. And the writers, despite eating habits almost as grotesque as my own [see "Trapped! In a Room Full of Junk Food: A Conversation with the Writers of The Simpsons," Simpsons Illustrated, Vol. 1, No. 4, Winter 1992] have also been unbelievably great: Jon Vitti, George Meyer, Jeff Martin, John Swarztwelder, David Stern, Frank Mula, Conan O'Brien, Jay Kogen, and Wally Wolodarsky.

We've got a mostly new gang of writer/producers for next season, and in general they have much healthier eating habits, so we'll see if the show suffers.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: Do you have the same appreciation for the show's animation?

GROENING: Because good writing in a TV cartoon is so rare, I think the animation on *The Simpsons* is often overlooked. But the job the directors do—under a grueling schedule—is always amazing. It's easy to get complacent about the visuals on the show, since we don't do a lot of dazzling animation

effects that call attention to this goofy medium. But the acting, sense of place, and pacing are all top-notch. David Silverman and Wes Archer have been with Bart since the prehistoric days, and over the years they've been joined by Brad Bird, Rich Moore, Mark Kirkland, Jim Reardon, Jeff Lynch, and Carlos Baeza, all of whom have distinctive styles and odd quirks that make the show unpredictable.

But it's not just the writers and animators.

The actors ad-lib stuff that goes into the show. When you see Harry Shearer do both Mr. Burns and Smithers in the same scene, it's frightening. And Hank Azaria, who does the voice of Apu and Moe, always cracks me up. Then there's Dan Castellaneta, Julie Kavner, Yeardley Smith, and Nancy Cartwright, who are perfect.

And of course there are the behind-the-scenes people who rarely get attention: Alf Clausen, our composer, who keeps knocking out fantastic scores; Mark McJimsey, who edits the show day and night; and casting director Bonnie Pietila, who lines up all the great guests we have. I'll continue this list in my next interview.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: Is there anything that you're able to do with the magazine that you can't do with the show?

GROENING: The thing that makes me happiest about *Simpsons Illustrated* are all the drawings that we get from readers. I wish we could print them all. They're really imaginative. They show a lot of hard work. Steve and Cindy Vance, Peter Alexander and I look at every one of them and we can't believe it. We just want to say to everyone who has sent in a drawing: "Thank you so much! You really make us happy." And again, save your drawings. Don't throw them away.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: Is there something you have yet to achieve that you want very badly?



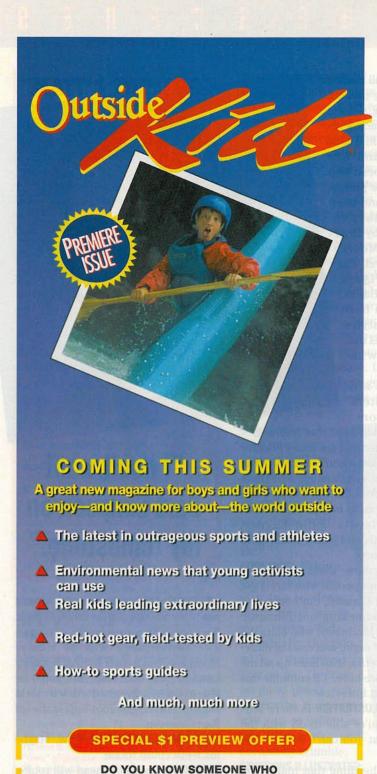
GROENING: I think the world is almost ready for a Simpsons amusement park. We'll call it Simpsons World, of course. The centerpiece will be Homer Mountain. You'll enter Itchy & Scratchy Land at your own risk. And you'll be able to eat heavily-salted snack treats in the head of the 600-foot-high statue of Bart Simpson.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: Wow. Maybe his teeth could rotate.

GROENING: His whole head will rotate. We'll build this in the center of Los Angeles, and at night Bart's jumbo spotlight eyes will shine into mansions in Beverly Hills. And we'll have a blimp in the shape of Marge Simpson hovering over the city, making annoyed Marge murmurs through giant loudspeakers hidden in her hairdo.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: What other stuff do you like?

GROENING: I love the work of Gary Panter, who does William & Percy for this magazine, and John Kricfalusi, who created Ren & Stimpy. I'm really looking forward to seeing what he does



next. I'm always intrigued by people who have a unique vision that they express musically. I've liked Frank Zappa since I was a kid. I also like a Jamaican screwball named Lee "Scratch" Perry, Sun Ra and his Solar Myth Arkestra, Captain Beefheart, Daniel Johnston, Yma Sumac, Perez Prado, Olivier Messiaen, Holger Czukay, Bob Wills and His Texas Playboys.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: What books influenced you when you were a kid? GROENING: As a little kid I loved Dr. Seuss. Later I got into Mark Twain, Catcher in the Rye, by J. Edgar Hoover, I mean J. D. Salinger. Catch 22, by Joseph Heller. Who else? P.G. Wodehouse, James Thurber, S.J. Perelman, Robert Benchley, Jean Shepard. One of my main influences was Cartooning the Head And figure by Jack Hamm, which demonstrated on page 3 that you can evoke all sorts of emotions with the crudest little ink squiggles.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: What's coming up?

GROENING: Simpsons Comics & Stories was a smash, so Steve and Cindy Vance, Bill Morrison, and I are scheming to figure out how to do comic books on a regular schedule. Any interest out there for a Radioactive Man comic book?

The next Life in Hell book will be Binky's Guide to Love, a sequel to Love Is Hell, and someday I'd like to animate the rabbits and Akbar & Jeff for TV. A book called Bart's Guide to Life will also be coming out next fall, and maybe someday we'll do a Simpsons movie.

Any more questions?

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: No, I think that's pretty much it.

GROENING: This interview is gonna be very, like, especially towards the end, very, you know, rambling and discursive.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: That's okay. I mean -

GROENING: But make it easy on yourself. You don't have to type up the stuff that you know is not going to be in there.

what do you want on your tombstone? **GROENING:** I don't want Bart Simpson. SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: How about a tombstone shaped like Bart Simpson?

GROENING: Uh oh.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: Little pointy head. With spikes.

GROENING: Ahh. My destiny.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: In conclusion,

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EYEBALLS:

provocation slightest Pop out at

> used against it (frying pan, anvil, etc.). Molds to shape of any blunt instrument

mousetrap; haunted by nightmares of steamrollers and falling safes.

and threshing equipment into electric sockets, blenders, Doubles as fuse; inserts easily Filled with dreams of building a better

BRAIN:

Capable of swallowing

exploding grenades

STOMACH:

Filled with shrapnel

JACKET:

for volatile flaw may account this tragic dental teasing due to

personality.

of childhood

BUCK TEETH: Painful memories

WHITE

network censors. A concession to

Classic cartoon character

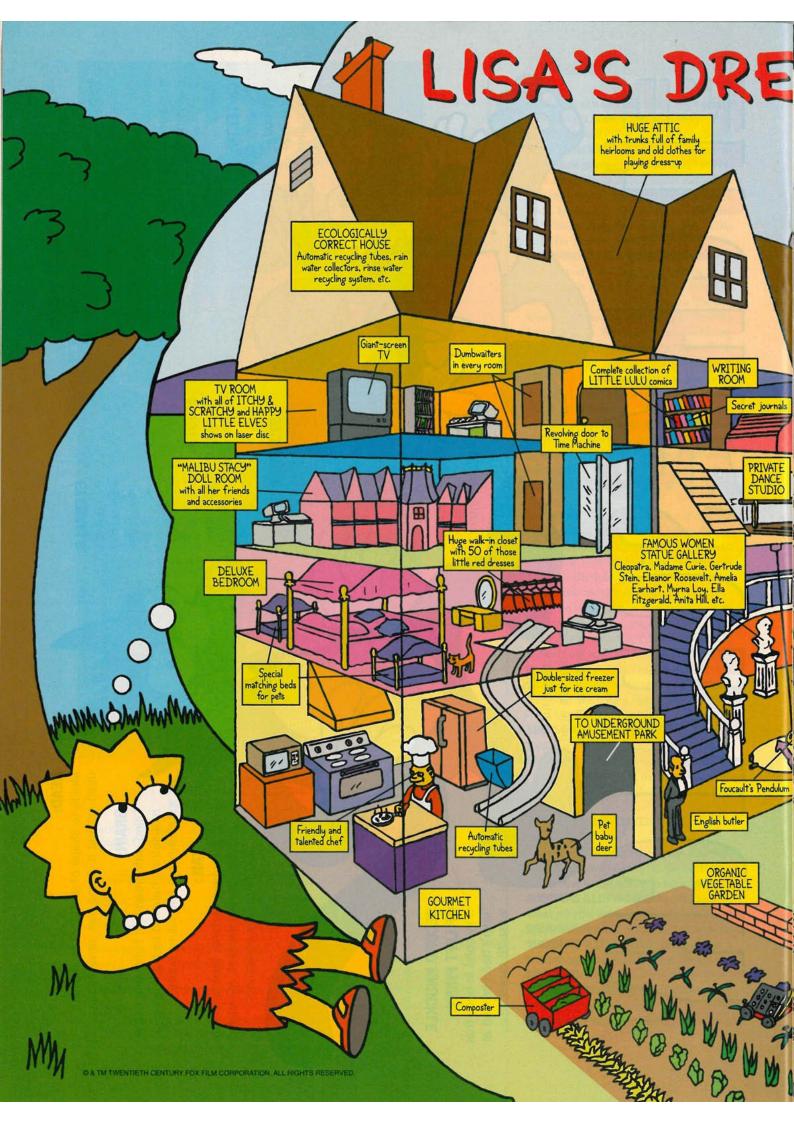
OF LEFT PINKY: SECOND KNUCKLE

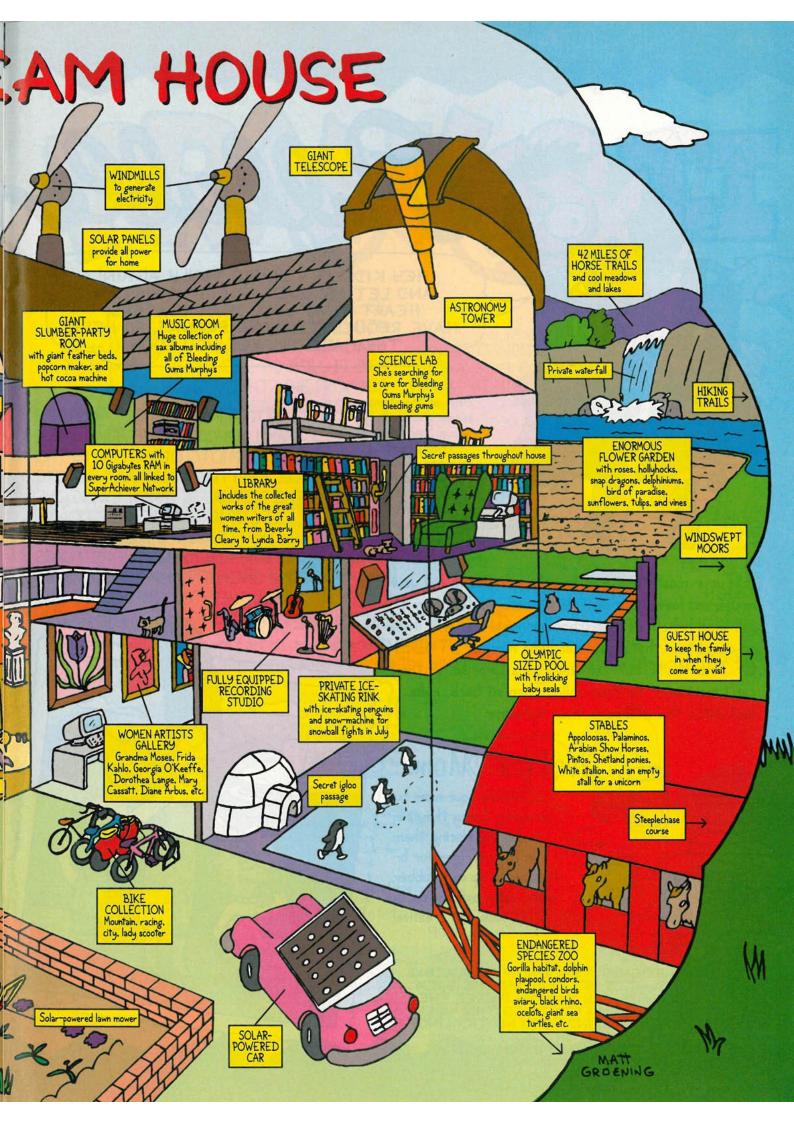
hasn't been broken at Only bone in body that least 26 times.

GLOVES:

accoutrement.

running at top speed 360 degrees when Rotate a full LEGS:







Rillulle

HEY KIDS! IT'S YOURS TRULY AGAIN!
AND LET ME JUST SAY IT WARMS MY
HEART THAT YOU, DEAR READERS,
HAVE REQUESTED MORE PRANKS. SO HERE
THEY ARE. I'LL SEE YOU SOON!

Answer the phone in new and exciting ways. Say "Your credit card number, please," or pretend that you are calling them and say, "May I speak to Joe, please?"

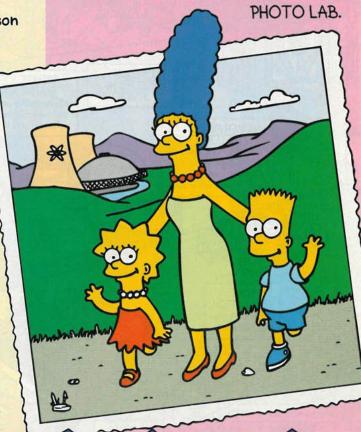
Ask your most "mature" sounding friend to call your house and leave your parents a message. Tell them the call is on behalf of the school principal and that their son or daughter (that's you) has been named "STUDENT OF THE MONTH." Tell them it's a surprise, so they can't mention it to their child. Then sit back, relax, and watch the change in their behavior.

Just for Mom...

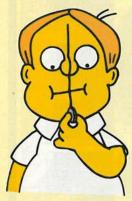
Surprise your mom by wrapping funny things in tinfoil and placing them in the refrigerator or freezer. Wrap up a rubber duck, water balloon, or an old sock. Get creative!

TEST YOUR FRIENDS' "BALANCE" BY PLACING TWO FULL GLASSES OF LIQUID ON THE BACK OF THEIR HANDS. SAY "YOU'VE PASSED THE TEST!" NOW SCRAM! (TRY TO DO THIS WHEN NOBODY ELSE IS AROUND.) AND NO TICKLING!

GOTTA POSE FOR YET ANOTHER FAMILY PHOTO? NEXT TIME, MAKE IT A "PHOTO OPPORTUNITY" TO PULL A LITTLE PRANK. JUST BEFORE THE PICTURE IS TAKEN, SWING ONE LEG UP (FROM THE KNEE DOWN). YOUR PARENTS WILL GET A BIG SURPRISE WHEN THE PICTURES COME BACK. IF THEY FLIP OUT, JUST TELL THEM TO COMPLAIN TO THE

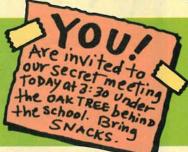






RUB THE OUTER EDGE OF A DIME OR QUARTER WITH A PENCIL, THEN DARE SOMEONE TO ROLL IT IN A STRAIGHT LINE FROM HIS FOREHEAD TO HIS CHIN. STAND BACK AND OBSERVE THE RESULTS. AND DON'T LAUGH!

POST NOTES ON FRIENDS' LOCKERS. GO AND ENJOY THE SNACKS. WHEN THEY ASK ABOUT THE NOTES, LOOK STUMPED AND PRETEND YOU DON'T HAVE A CLUE.



SPOOK THE TEACHER AGAIN!

Select a "secret word" with your classmates, such as "you" or "school" or "stupid ingrates." When your teacher says the secret word, everybody look to the left. Next time, look to the right. Next time, fall off your chairs! (This is especially fun with substitute teachers!)



Here's one trick that's been part of our cultural heritage for generations, practiced in houses and summer camps the world over. Follow the easy steps below.

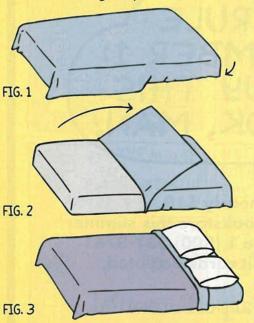
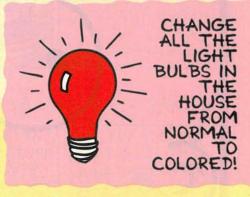


FIG. 1 - Take the top sheet off the bed and lay it loosly over the fitted bottom sheet. Tuck the top half under the mattress so it looks like a fitted bottom sheet.

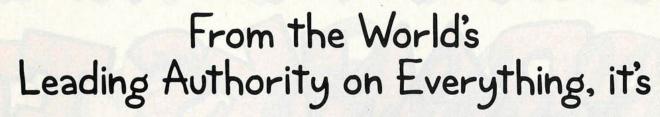
FIG. 2 - Fold the bottom half up to look like a normal top sheet. creating a pocket for a person to fit in.

FIG. 3 - To camouflage your handiwork, make up the rest of the bed as usual.

FIG. 4 - When the unsuspecting person tries to go to bed, they'll only be able to fit in halfway!







BART SIMPSON'S

GUIDE FOLLIFE

RULE NUMBER 1: BUY THIS BOOK, MAN!

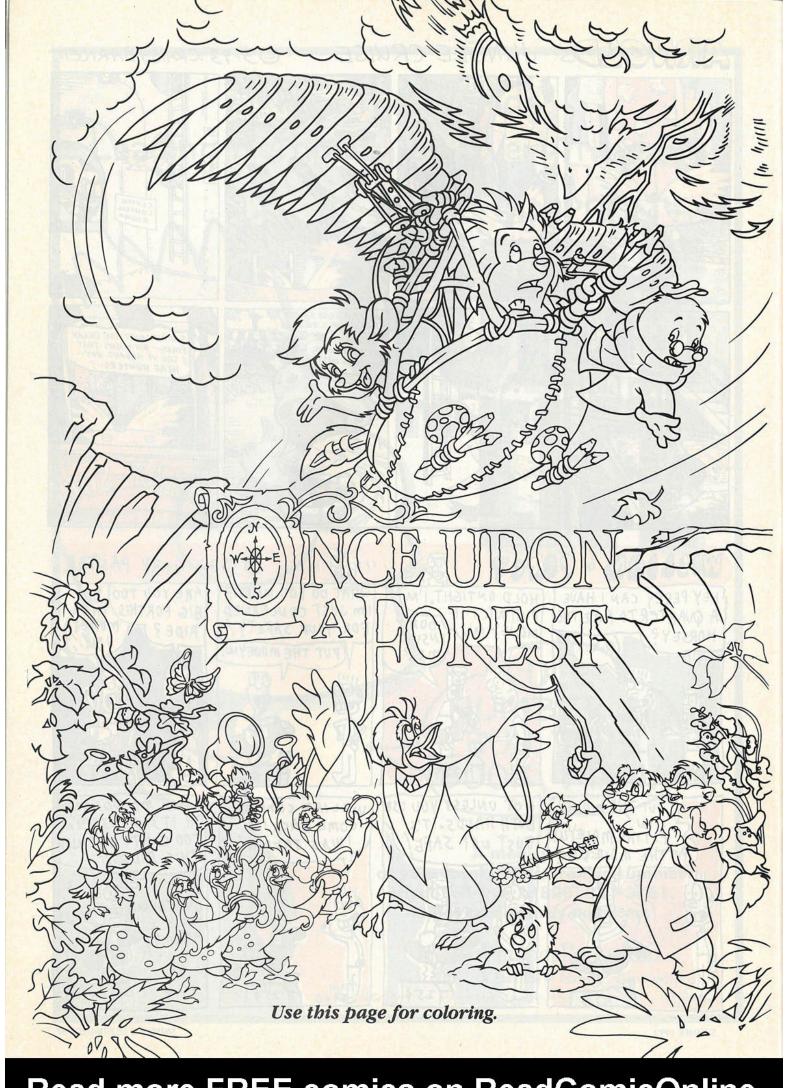
A measly \$10 at your local bookstore this summer or call toll-free 1 (800) 331-3761. Major credit cards accepted.

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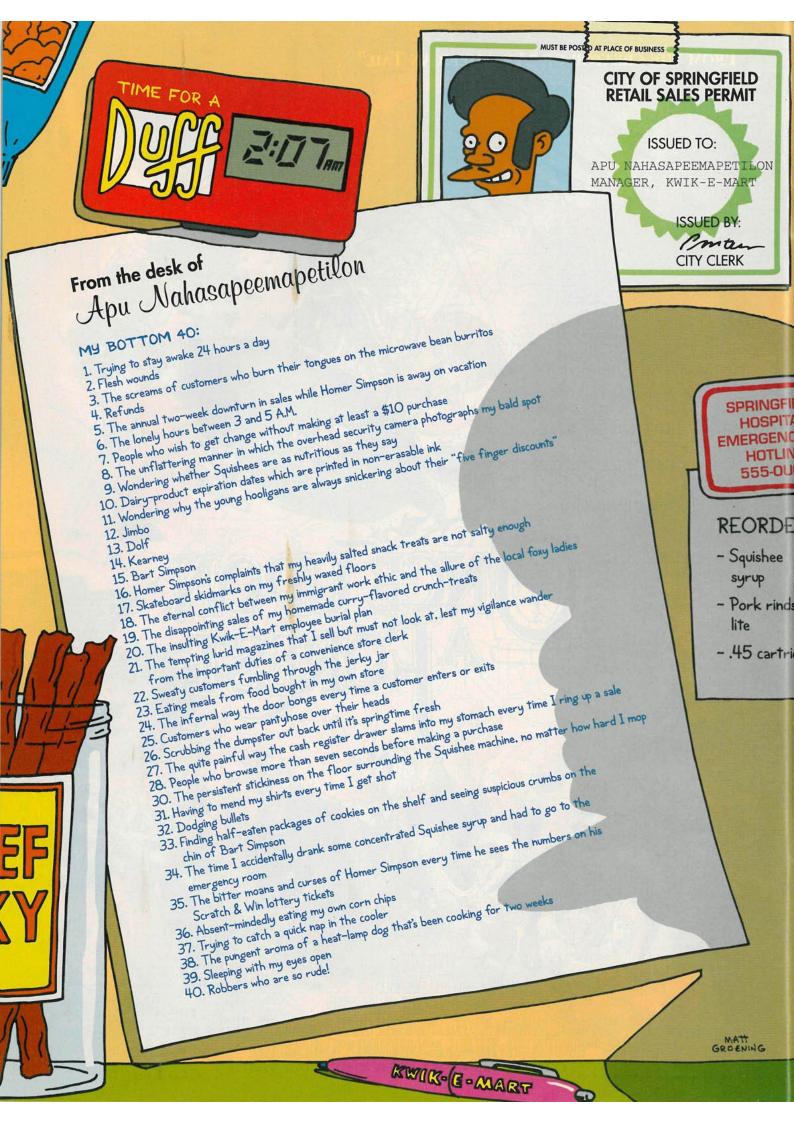
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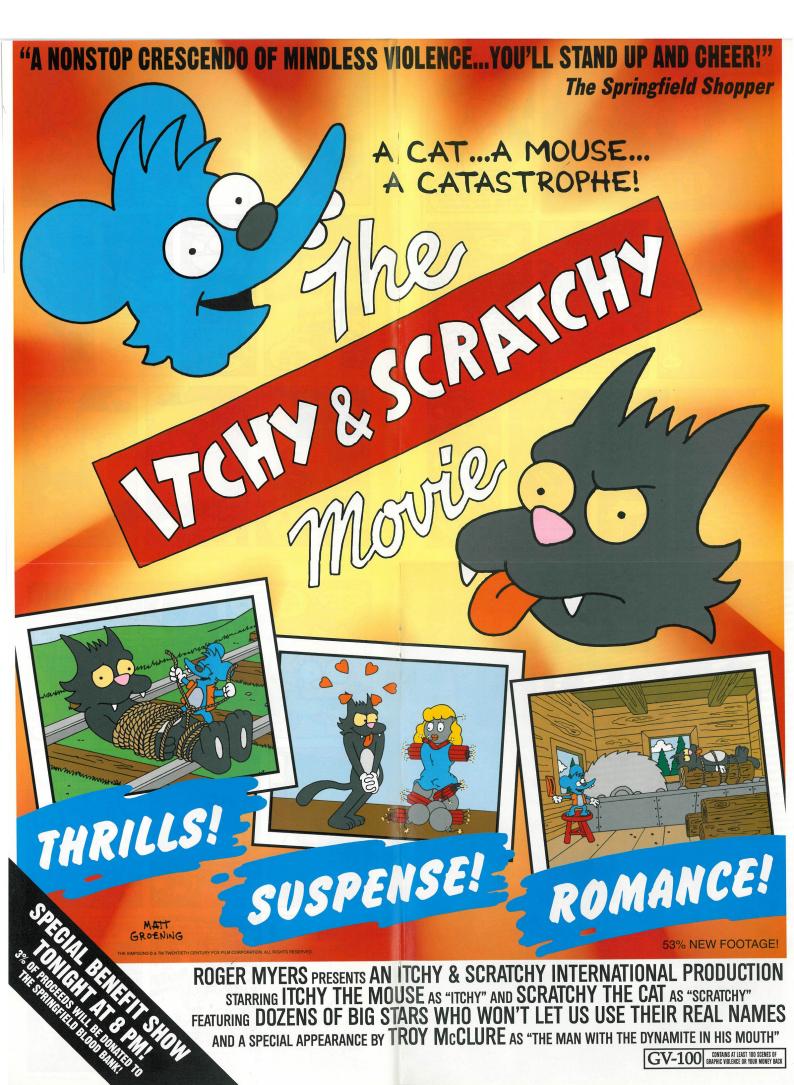


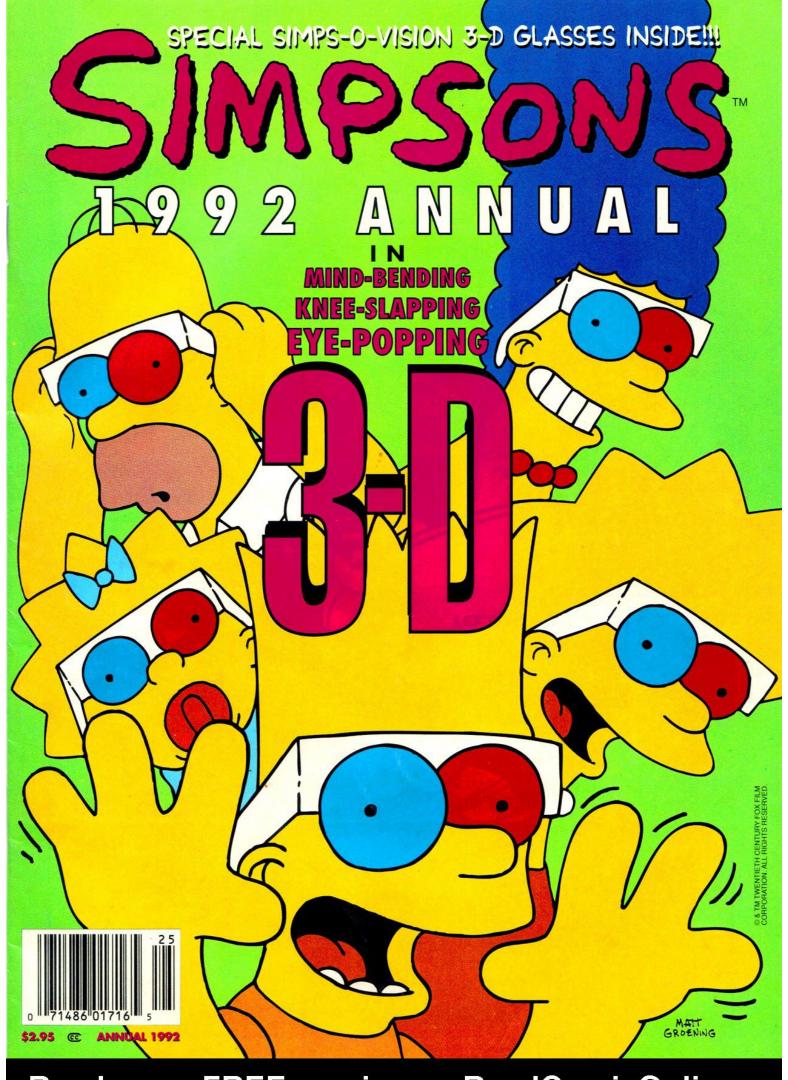




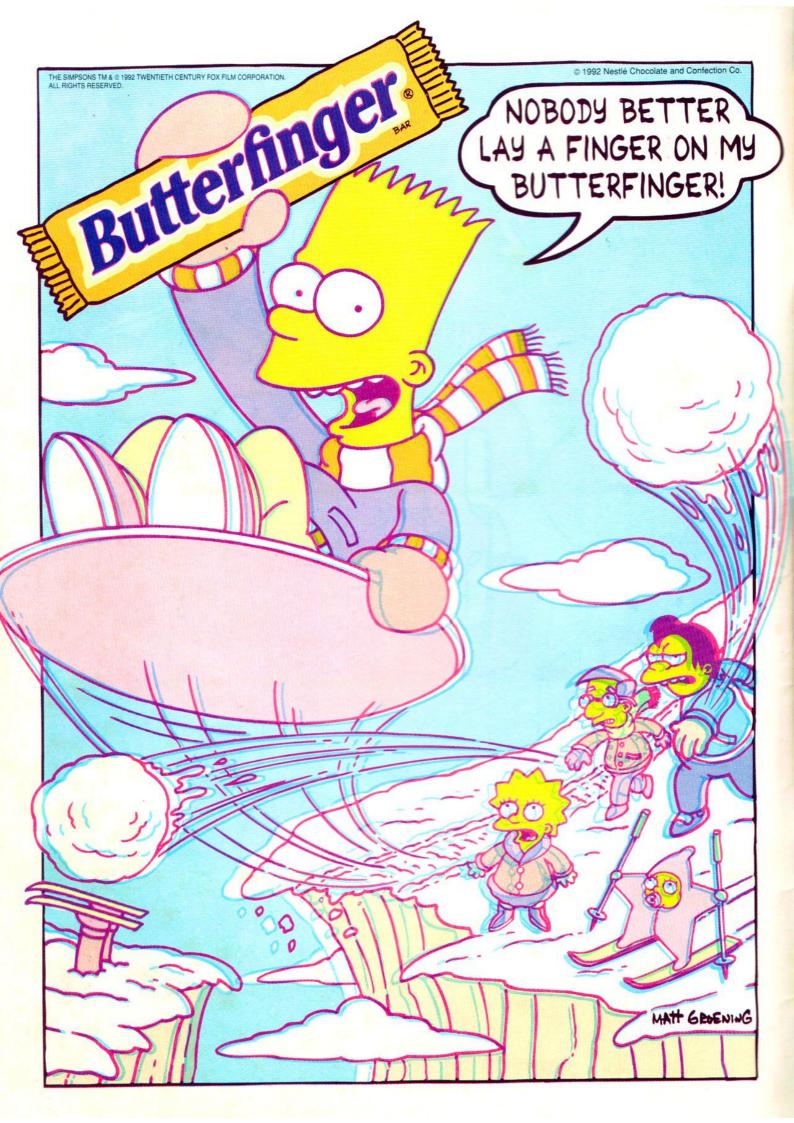


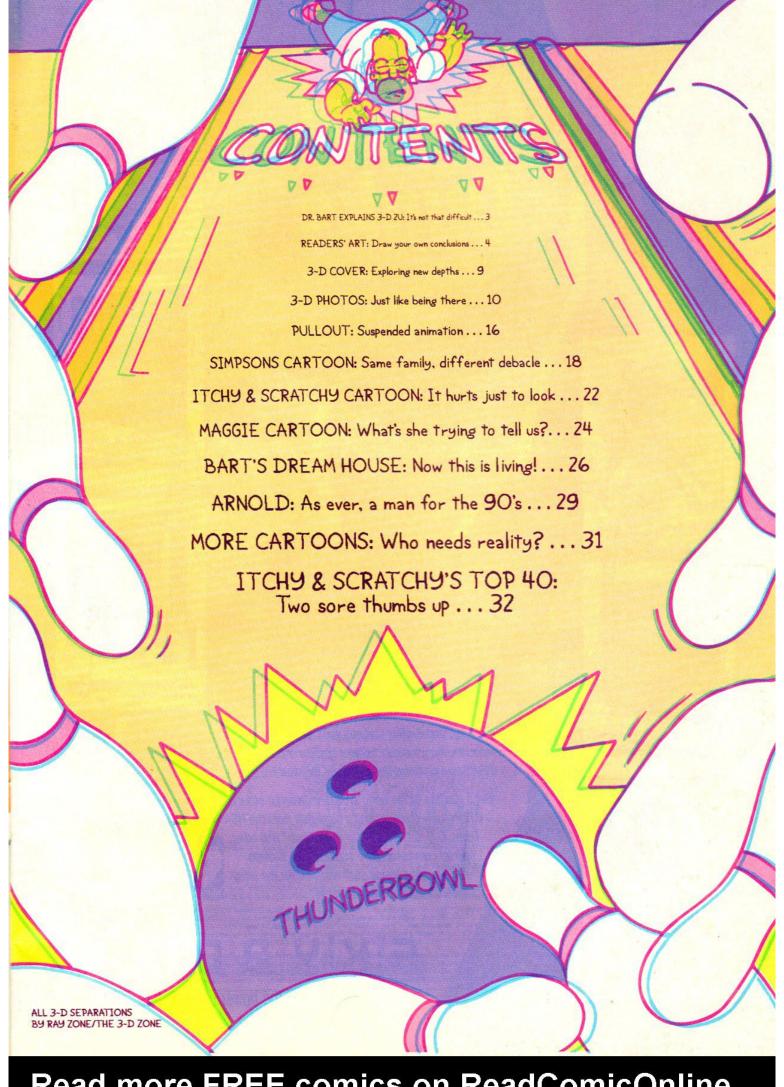
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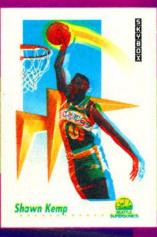
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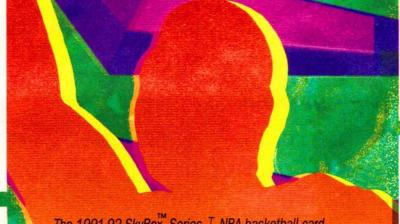


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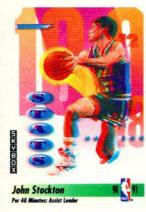




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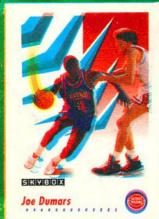


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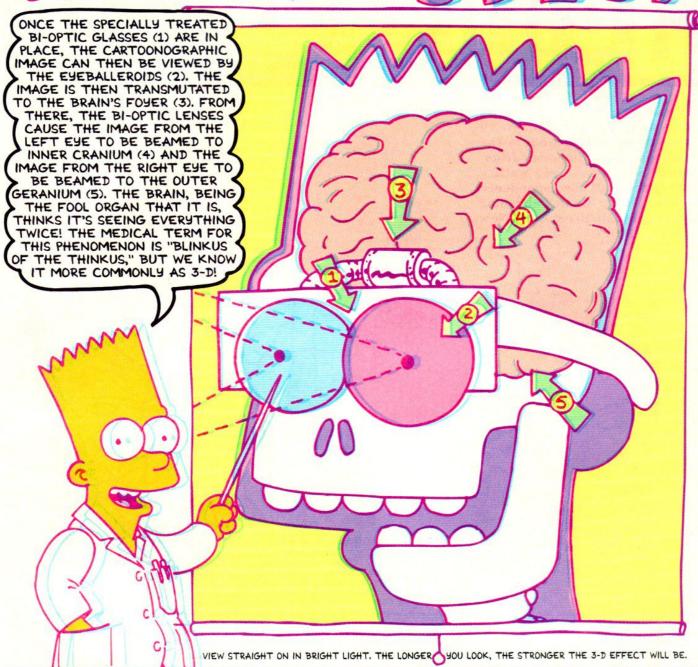






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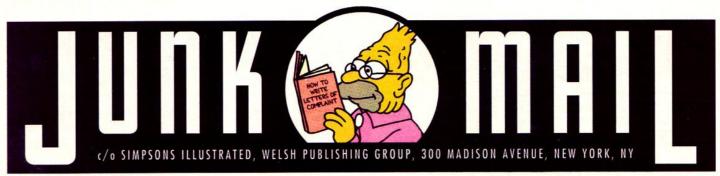
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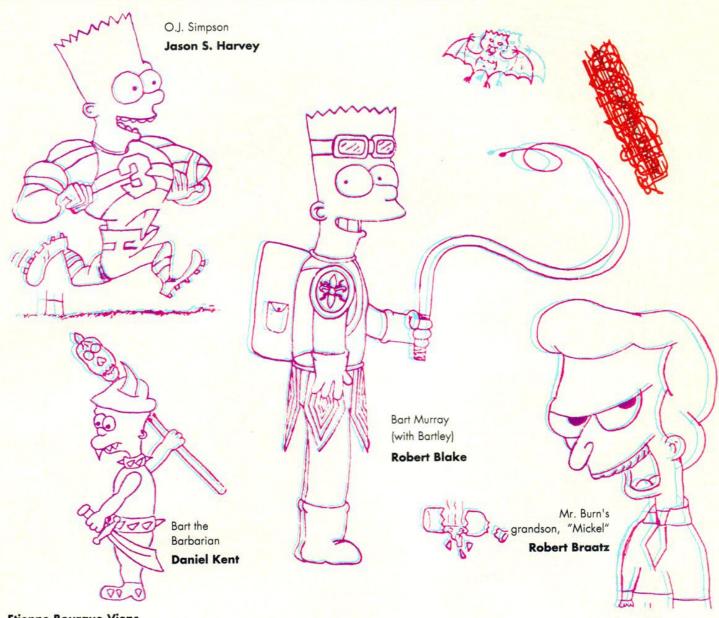
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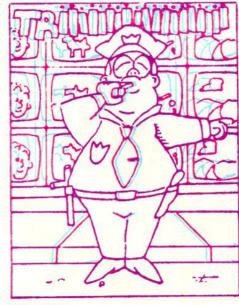
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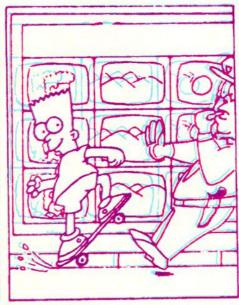
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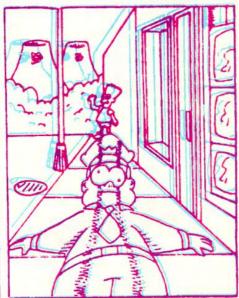
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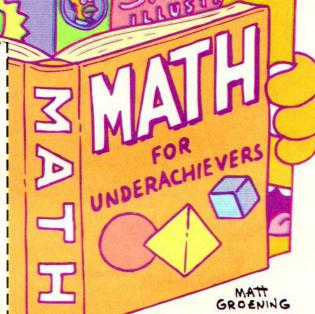
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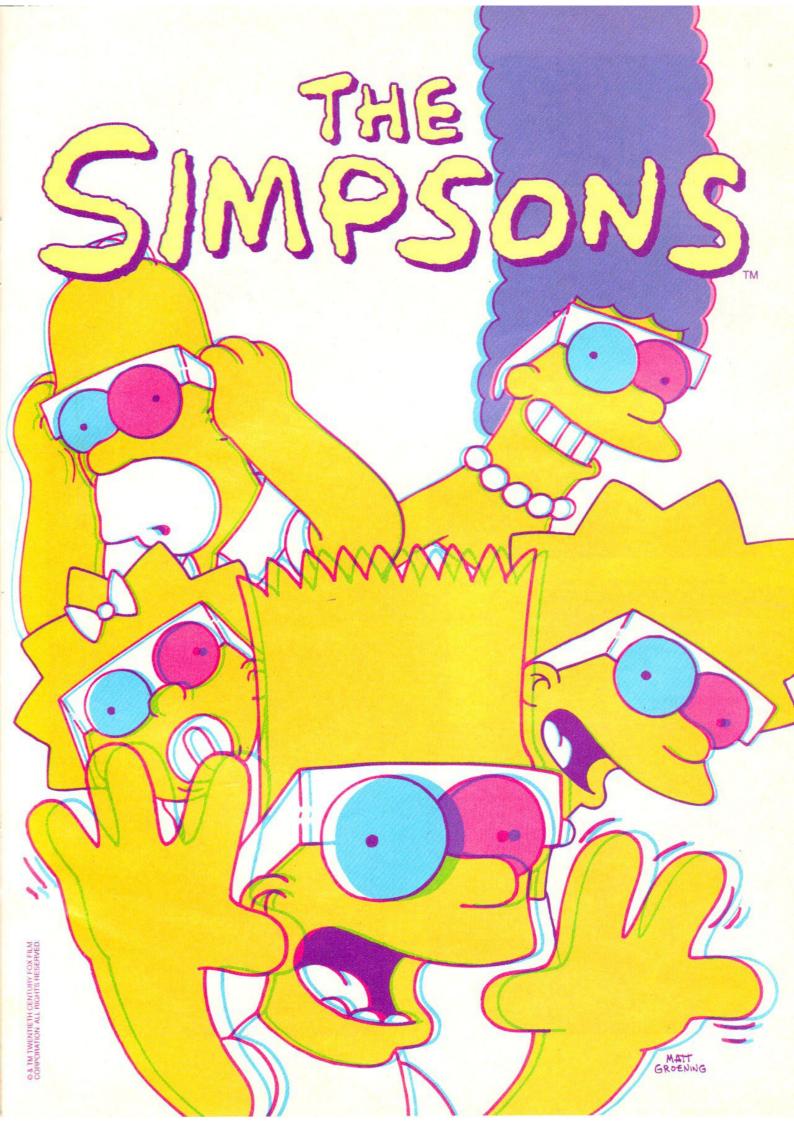
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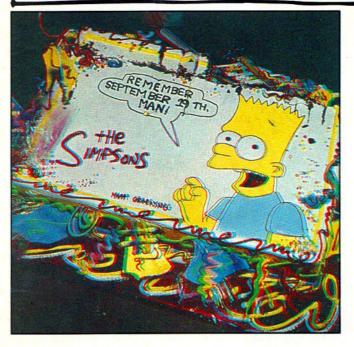


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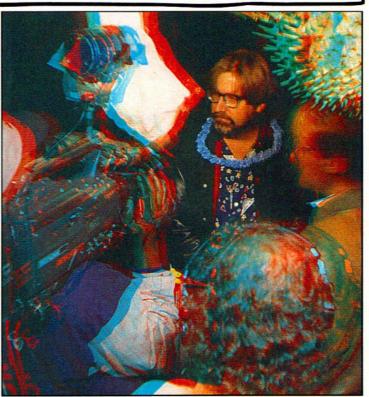
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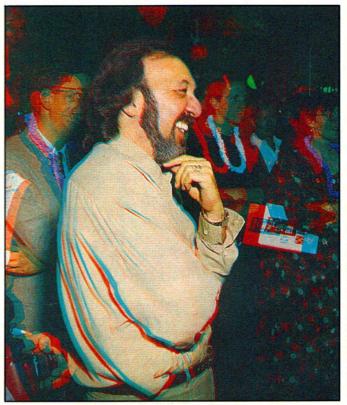
WITH THE CAST & CREW OF THE SIMPSONS



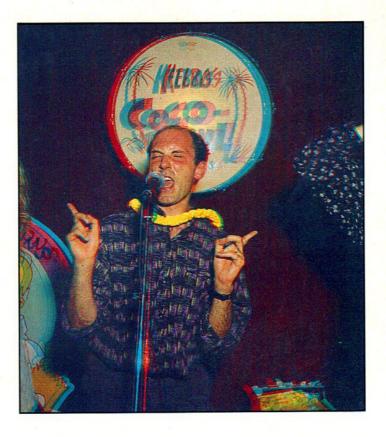
The Simpsons' third season got underway with a premiere party at Kelbo's Restaurant in West Los Angeles. Clockwise from top left: The official premiere cake awaits the hungry guests; Simpsons creator Matt Groening (center, with festive lei) meets the media; executive producer James L. Brooks gets a laugh during the screening of the season's first episode; Yeardley Smith, the voice of Lisa.







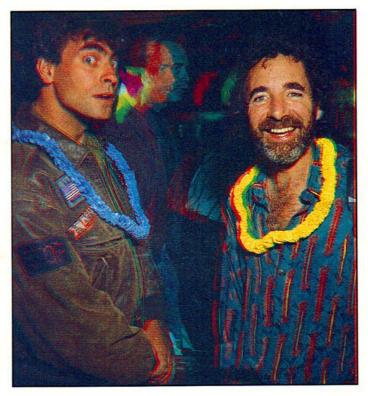
3-D PHOTOS BY GARY SCHWARTZ





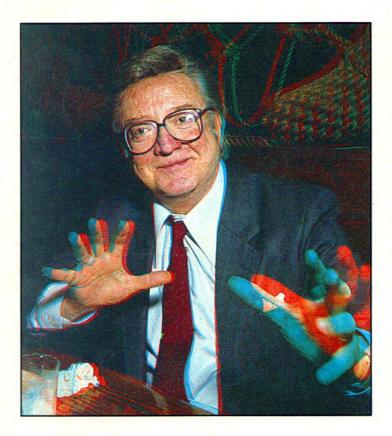
Dan Castellaneta, the voice of Homer, during an after-dinner karaoke performance; Fox publicist Antonia Coffman and Julie Kavner, the voice of Marge; Nancy Cartwright, the voice of Bart, soon to deliver her second child, talks with an interviewer; animation director David Silverman (left)

with multi-voiced Harry Shearer (C. Montgomery Burns, Dr. Hibbert, Kent Brockman, and more).

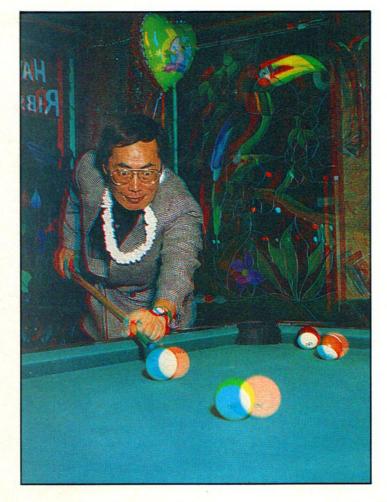




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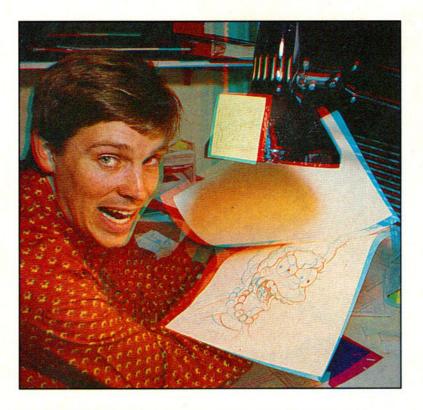


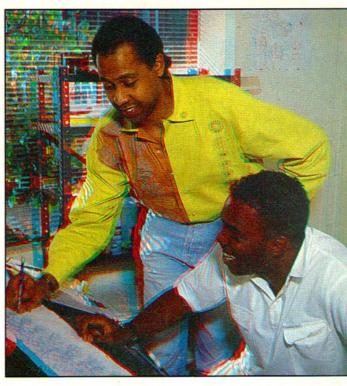


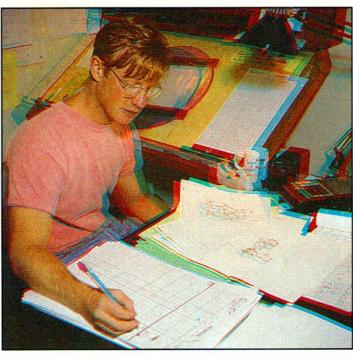
Guest voice Steve Allen strikes a 3-D pose; layout artist Martin Archer (left) and his brother, animation director Wes Archer; Gabor Csupo and his wife, Arlene Klasky. of Klasky-Csupo Animation; guest voice George Takai, Star Trek's Mr. Sulu.



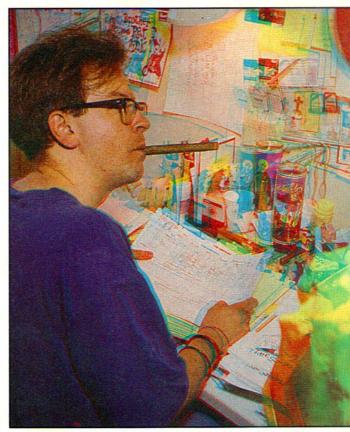
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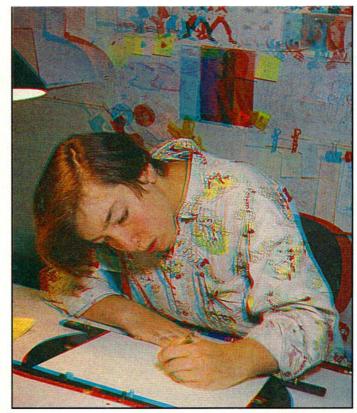




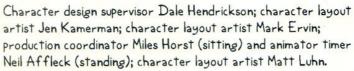


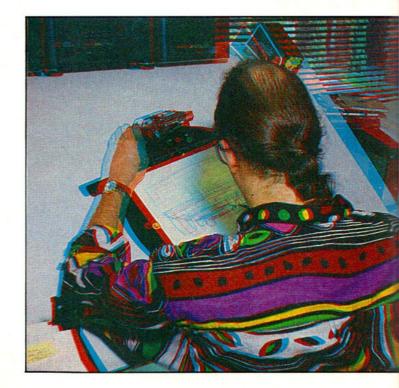
Where The Simpsons' images come from—the men and women of Klasky-Csupo Animation in Hollywood: (clockwise from top left) director Mark Kirkland; director Carlos Baeza (standing) and character layout artist Tony Bell; director Rich Moore; editor Don Barrozo (left) and director Jim Reardon; assistant director Alan Smart.







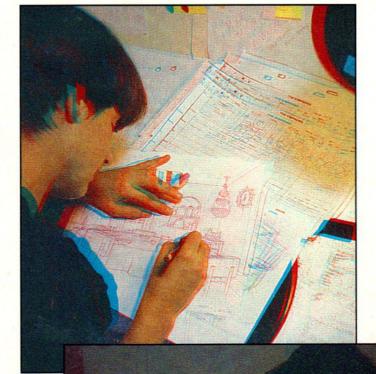






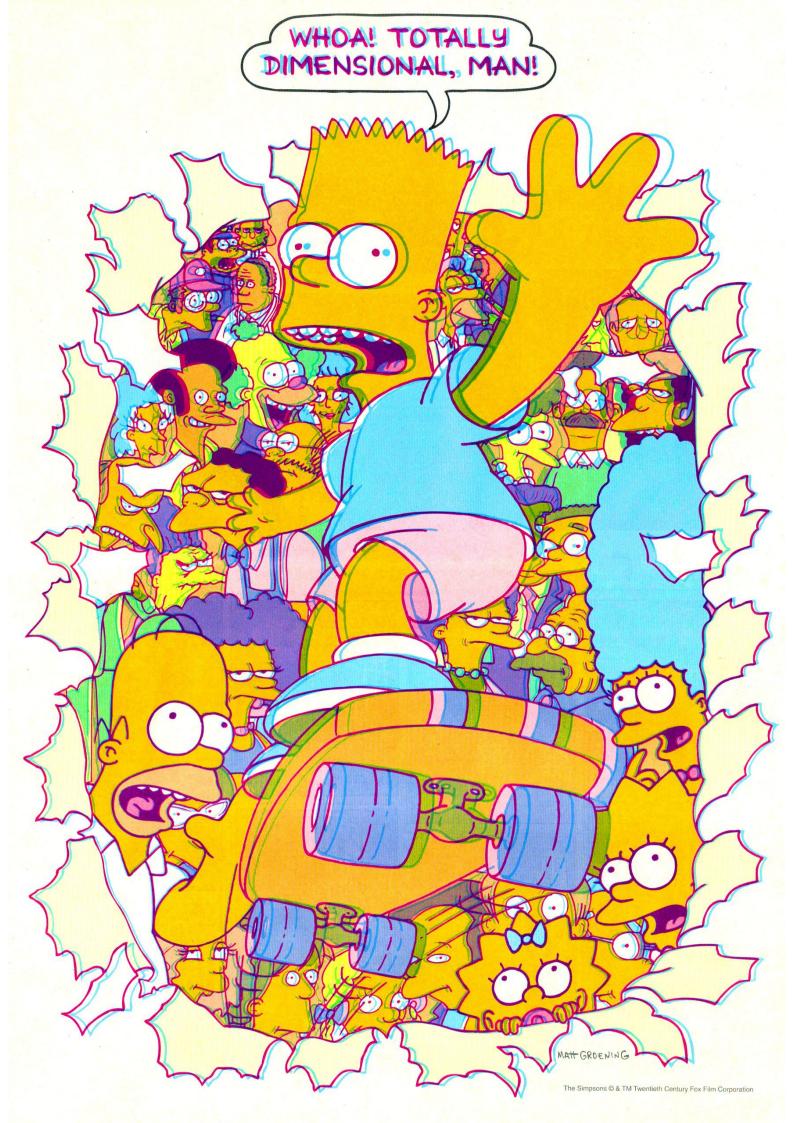








Background cleanup artist Trevor Johnson; background layout artist Debbie Silver; color designer supervisor Carol Wyatt; painter Cookie Tricarico; background layout artist Sarah Frost.



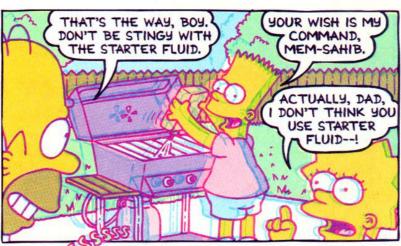


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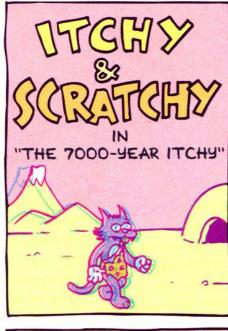




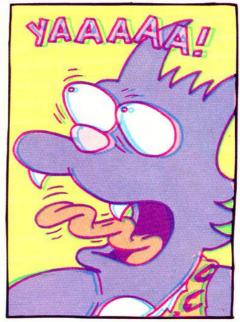




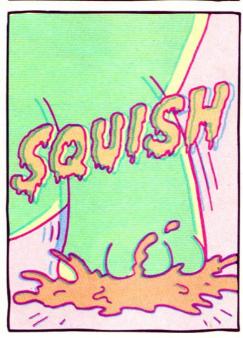


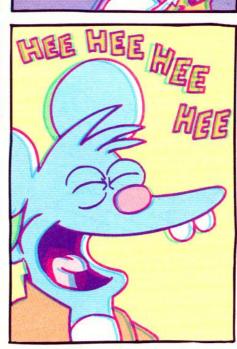


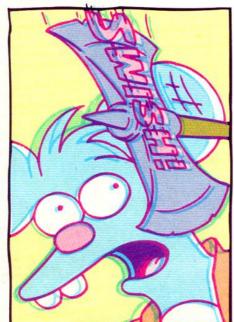


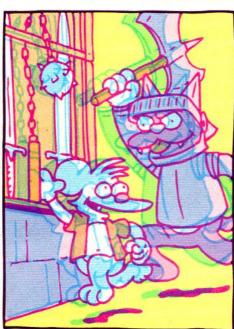


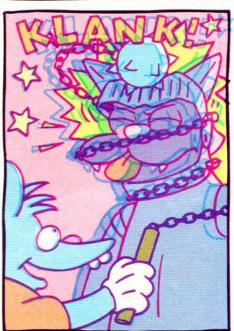










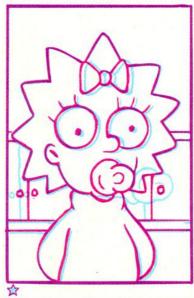




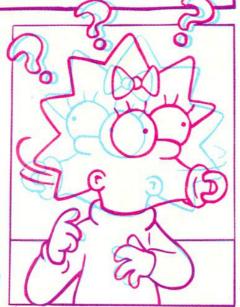
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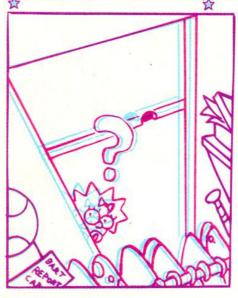
BLINKIE BONUS!!

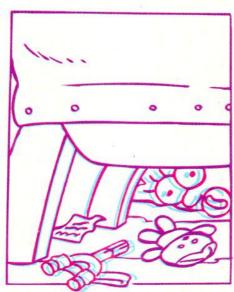
IN ADDITION TO 3-D, THIS COMIC STRIP CONTAINS ANIMATED PANELS, CALLED "BLINKIES." WEARING YOUR 3-D GLASSES, LOOK AT THE PANELS WITH A ☆ IN THE CORNER WITH JUST ONE EYE, THEN THE OTHER EYE. BLINK BACK AND FORTH AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS.

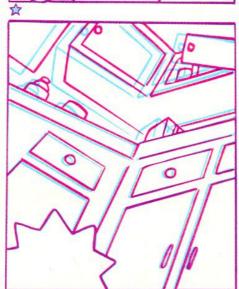




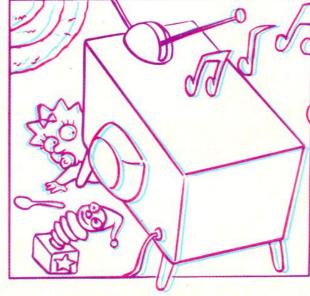




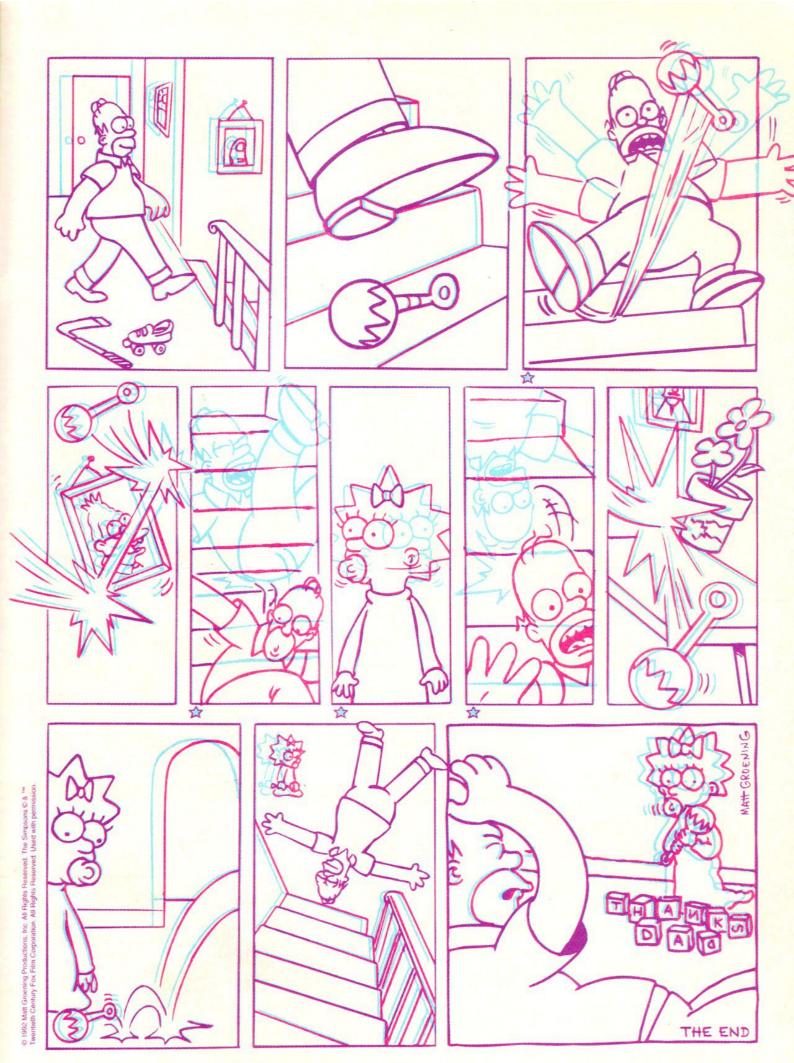


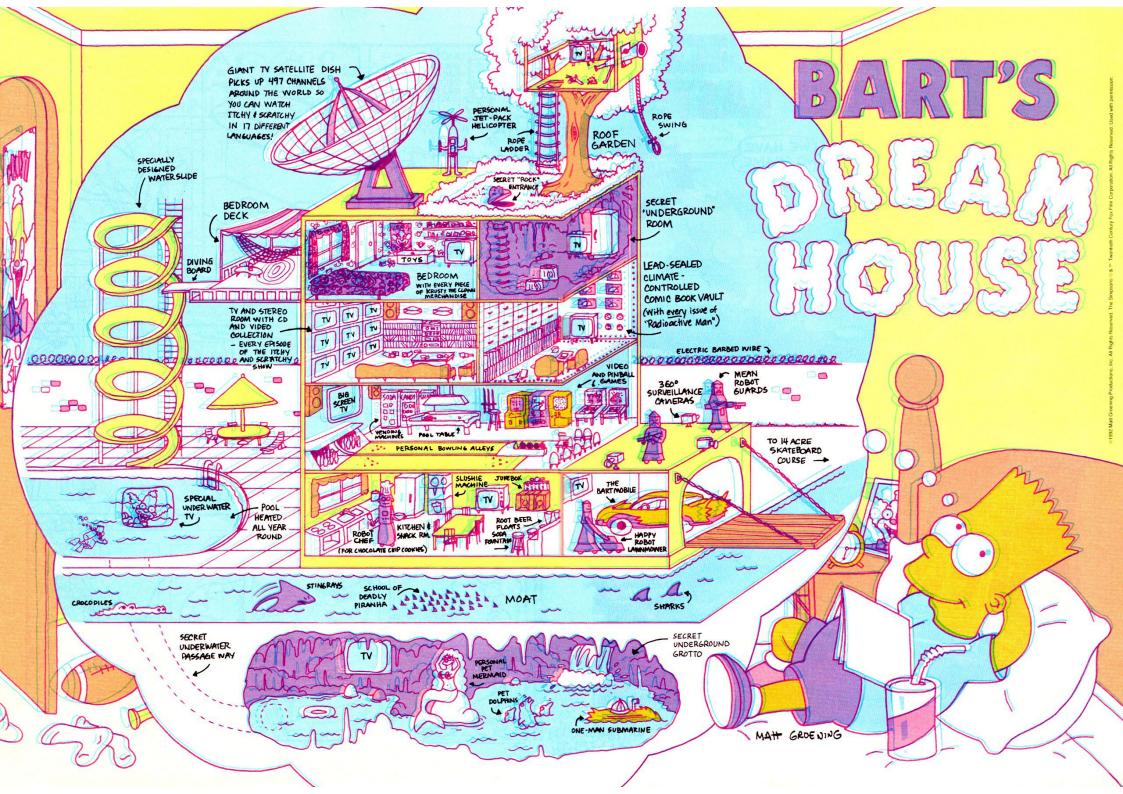


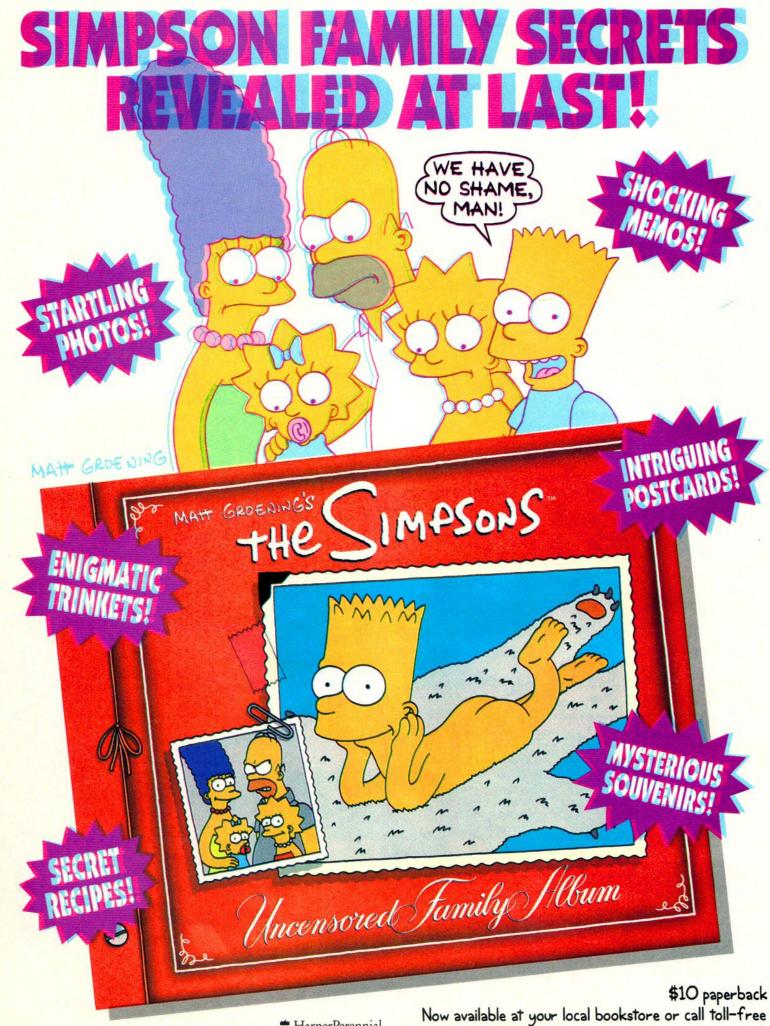






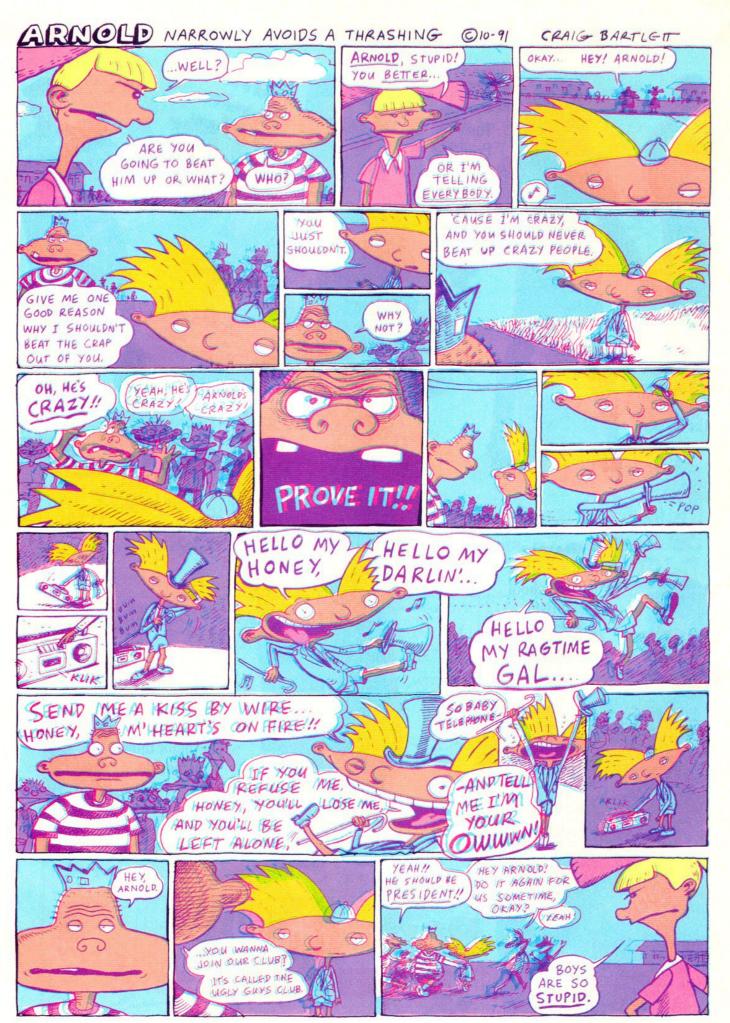


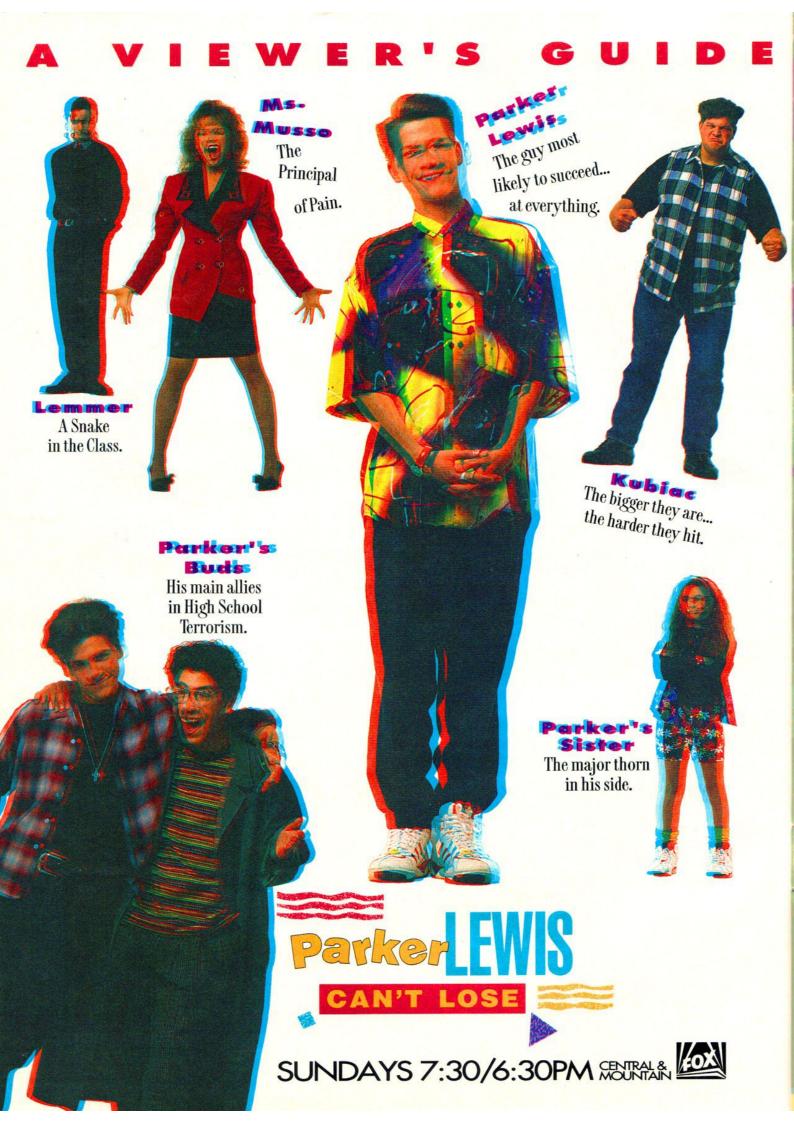




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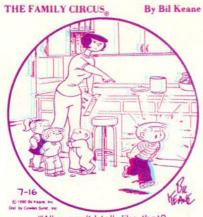




ARTOONS



AMERICA'S NEWSPAPER CARTOONS HAVE ADDED A NEW DIMENSION — FREQUENT VISITS FROM THE SIMPSONS. THEY'RE LIABLE TO TURN UP IN THE ODDEST PLACES.



"Why can't I talk like that? Bart Simpson does!"

53112DD









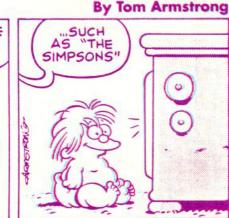


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MARVIN







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BRINGING UP FATHER







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By Frank Johnson



IT'S BARTMANIA FOR YOUR NES AND GAME BOY!







friends and ask em to call out words (nouns, **BART AND HIS** verbs, or whatever) for you to put in the blanks. But don't let them see the page 'til it's finished! When all the spaces are filled in, you'll have a bizarre but definitely cool story **Butterfinger** you can read aloud. (Hint: If you use a pencil, you can do it over and over!) .beady-eyed, boneless, wrinkly .scratch, twist, spit MAKE HISTORY mindlessly, wretchedly, stupidly pork rind, doorknob, spatula Whoa, mama!; Cowabunga!; Gadzooks! At last! The day that Bart, Millhouse. and _____ had been waiting for: the class trip to the Museum of Natural. History! Bart couldn't wait to see the dinosaur with the long (body part) Everything was _____until the class reached "The History of PREHISTORIC Man" exhibit. While (other person in room), the tour guide, was (adverb) the (adjective) exhibit, Bart took a bite of his Butterfinger. (vegetable) -brain! " said (same name). "Gimme that Butterfinger. __face!" Bart shouted as he ducked into a crowd of "No way,_ (plural noun) (adjective) (adjective) guide _____ searched the whole museum, but couldn't find Bart or his Butterfinger. . But as _ exhibit, the guide could prehistoric man say, "Ooga swear he heard a _ (adjective) walla fooga ooga Boogafooga", which in Cavespeak means: "NOBODY BETTER LAY A FINGER ON MY BUTTERFINGER ?!" WE REPEAT, ADVERTISEMENT

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--YOUR MOTHER MAY HAVE THROWN
AWAY A TREASURE TROVE WHEN SHE
CLEANED OUT YOUR CLOSET ALL THOSE
YEARS AGO. IT SEEMS THOSE COMIC
BOOKS MANY OF US READ AS CHILDREN
ARE NOW FETCHING FABULOUS PRICES
FROM GROWN-UP COLLECTORS,

WEEKEND'S SPRINGFIELD COMIC CONVENTION, FANS ARE COMING FROM MILES AROUND TO BUY AND SELL THEIR GARISH PIECES OF NEWSPRINT NOSTALGIA.

A CASE IN POINT IS THIS

FEATURED AT THE CONVENTION WILL BE ARNOLD LEACH, THE MAN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RADIOACTIVE MAN COMIC BOOK. ON SUNDAY HE'LL BE RECEIVING THE COVETED "GOOD GUY" AWARD IN RECOGNITION OF HIS ACHIEVMENTS IN RAISING THE PUBLIC'S PERCEPTION OF THIS LOWBROW ENTERTAINMENT MEDIUM.













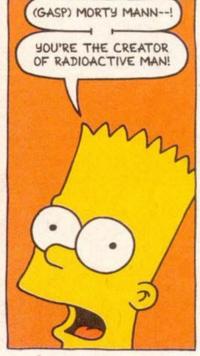




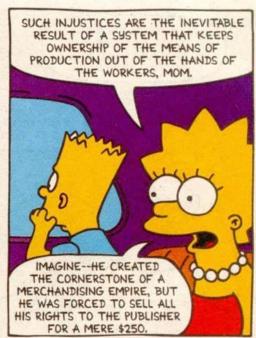


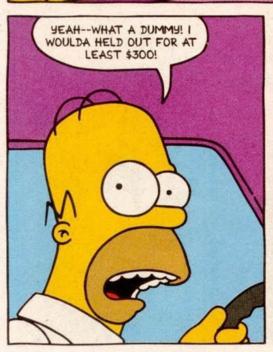










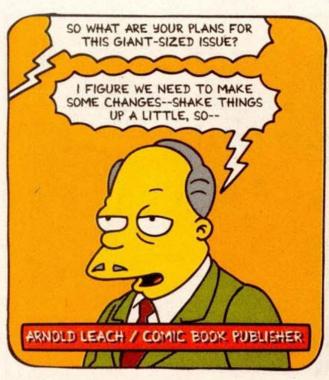




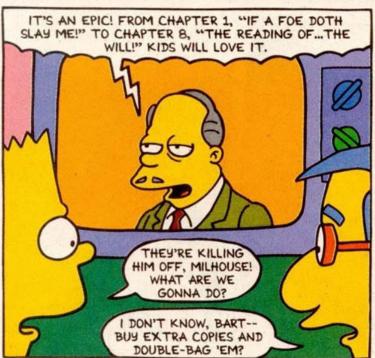


TODAY AT THE CONVENTION, ARNOLD LEACH









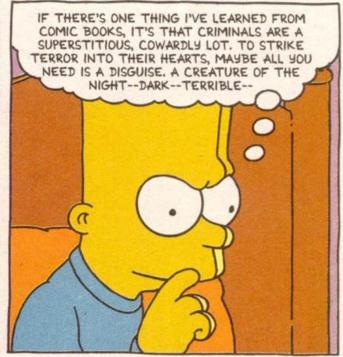


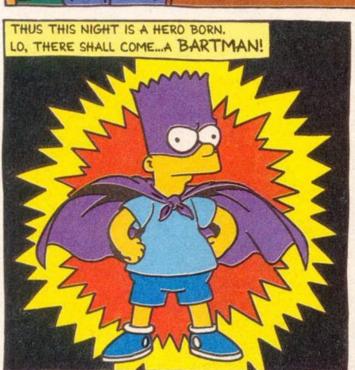




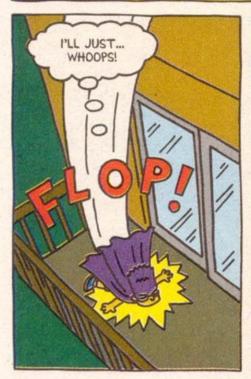


















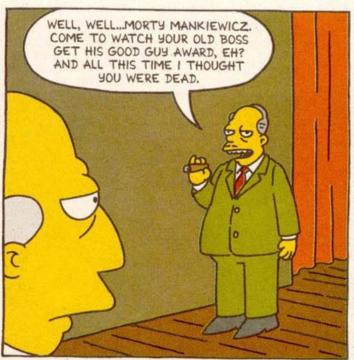






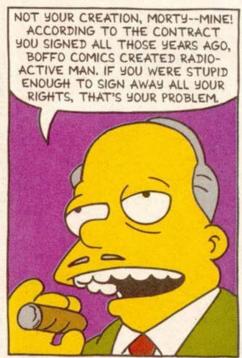




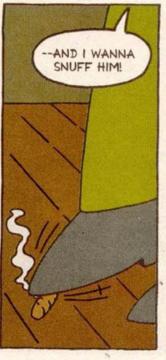














HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, LEACH! I'VE BEEN RECORDING THIS ENTIRE MEETING--WITH THE SPYMASTER JR. TAPE RECORDER I ORDERED FROM THE BACK OF ONE OF YOUR COMICS! WHAT DO YOU THINK WOULD HAPPEN IF THIS TAPE FELL INTO THE HANDS OF THE MEDIA--OR OF "THOSE MORONIC LITTLE FANBOY GEEKS"?

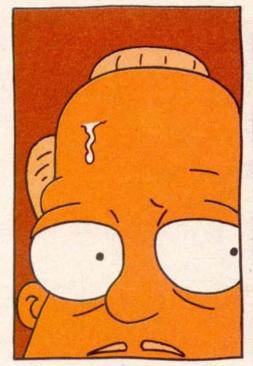
GOOD-BYE, GOOD GUY AWARD!



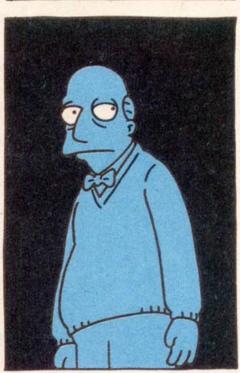


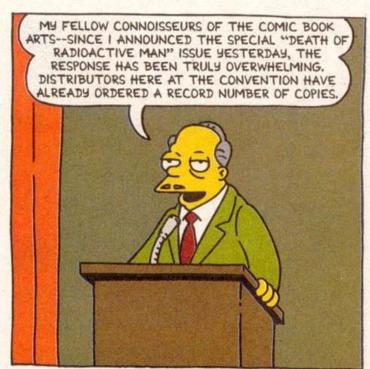




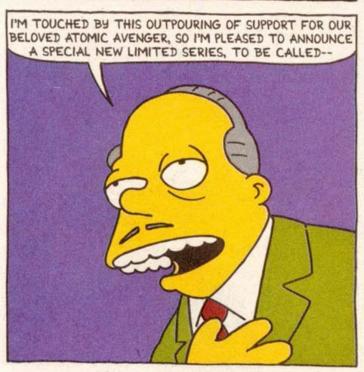


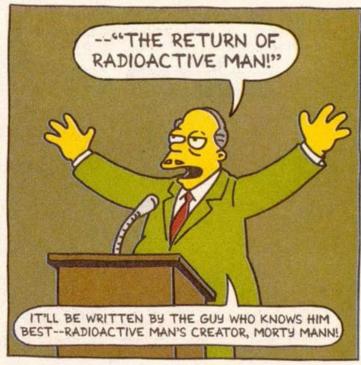


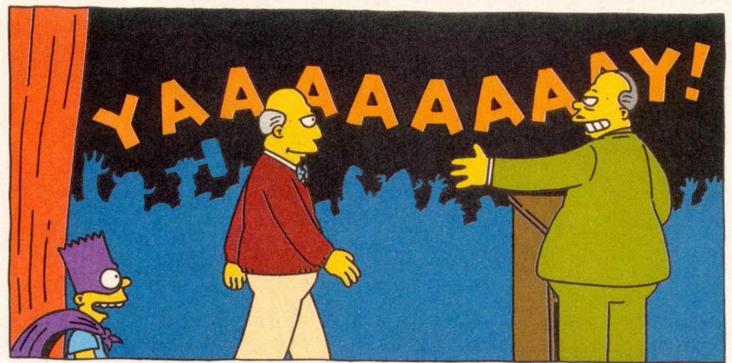


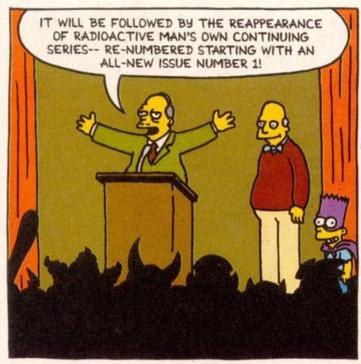








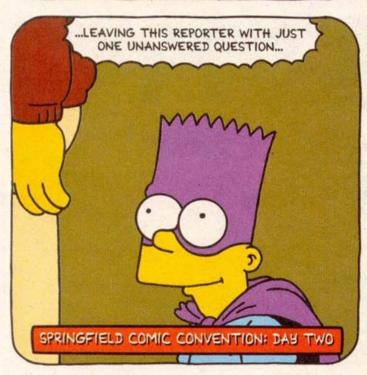




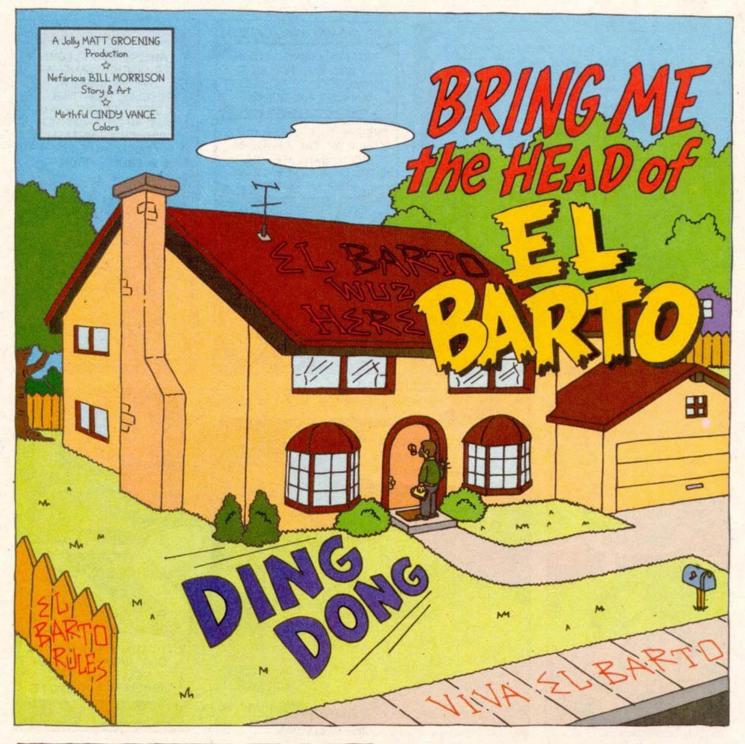
















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600 SIGNATURES LATER ...

THE FOLLOWING BROAD-CAST WAS PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO RE-ELECT DIAMOND JOE QUIMBY.

THEY'RE LIKE SHEEP. ONCE
I POUR ON THE CHARISMA,
THEY'LL HAND ME THEIR
VOTES ON A SILVER TRAY-



AHEM! MY FELLOW SPRINGFIELDIANS. AS WE APPROACH RE-ELECTION DAY, I COME BEFORE YOU, NOT WITH ANOTHER EMPTY CAMPAIGN PROMISE, BUT WITH A PROPOSITION.

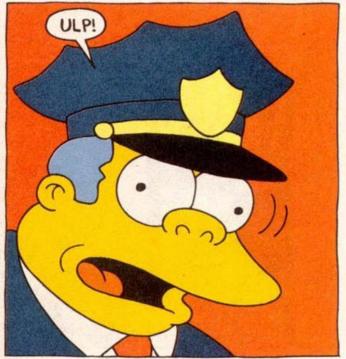


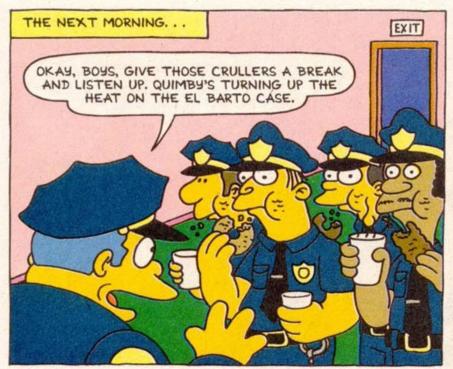
BY ELECTION EVE, I
WILL RID THIS FAIR
TOWN OF THE PLAGUE
WE CALL "EL BARTO"
ONCE AND FOR ALL.
ALL I ASK FOR IN
RETURN, IS ANOTHER
FOUR YEARS TO FINISH
THE JOB I STARTED
TWENTY-FOUR
YEARS AGO.

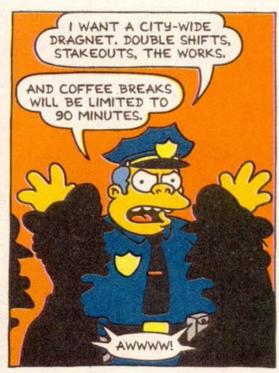


















"THE MORNING AFTER YOUR TV SPEECH, I BRIEFED SPRINGFIELD'S FINEST ON THE URGENCY OF OUR MISSION."



"AFTER A HEARTY STEAK & EGGS BREAKFAST, WE SET UP A ROADBLOCK ON MAIN STREET. THE OBJECTIVE: STOP ANY SUSPICIOUS-LOOKING VEHICLES."







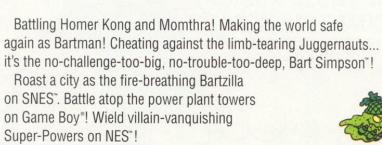














"BART'S NIGHTMARE" ON SUPER NES"!



GREAT BALLS OF FIRE...
IT'S BARTZILLA!





"BARTMAN MEETS RADIOACTIVE MAN" ON NES"!



ENTER THE PAGES OF BOOK AS BARTMAN.



BART'S FAVORITE COMIC BARTMAN SUPERPOWERS



JOUSTING JUST ENTERED











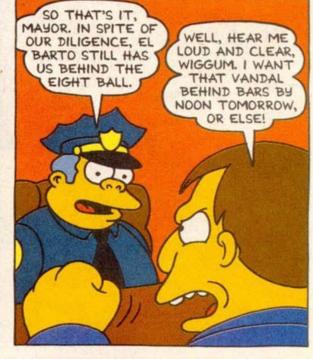


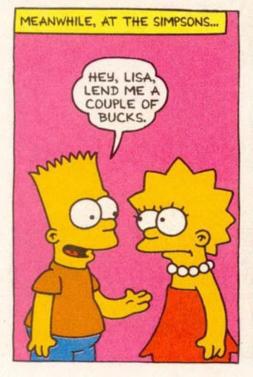
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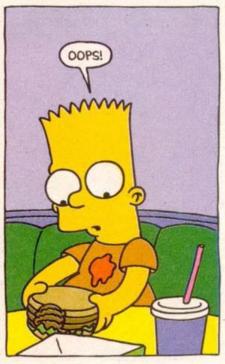


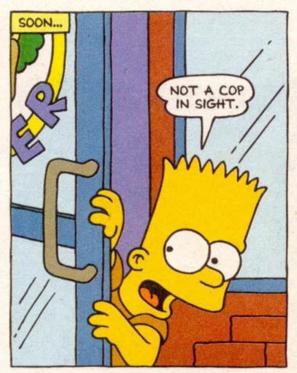






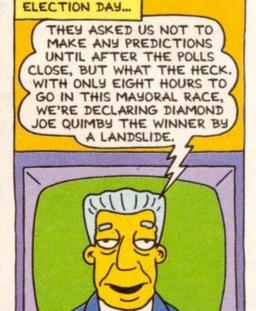


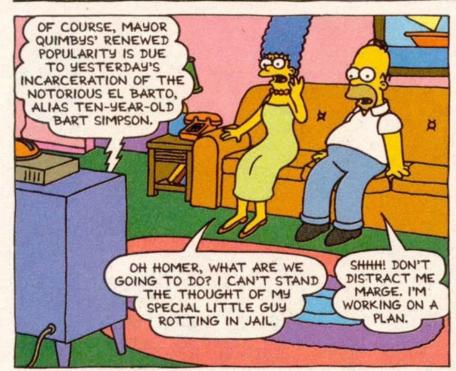






















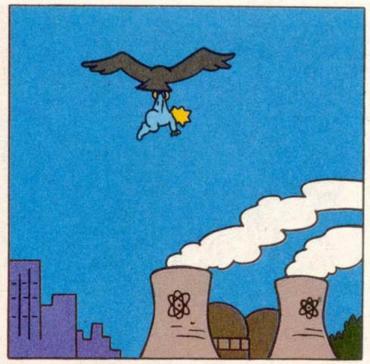






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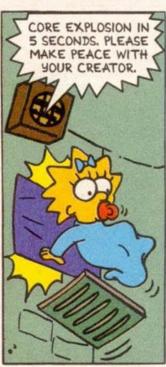






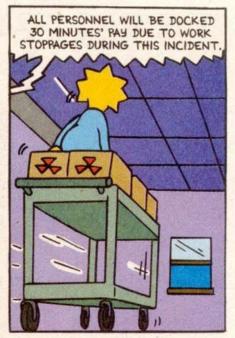




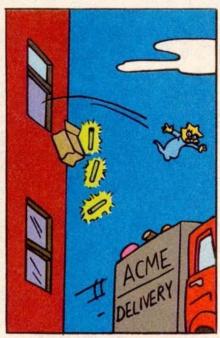




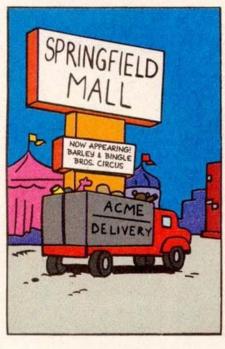






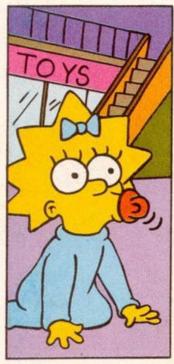










































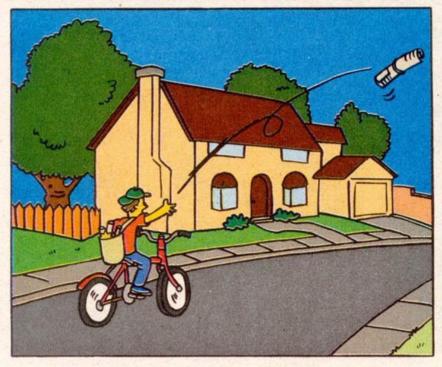






























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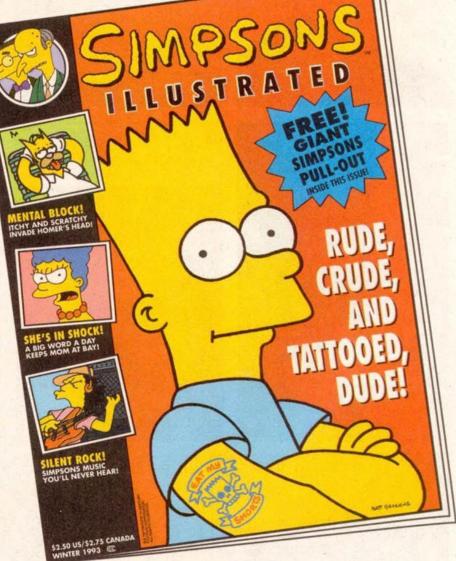
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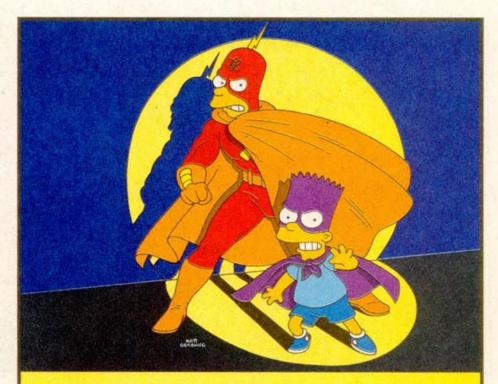
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A MESSAGE FROM MATT

You laughed at Bart in his TV show! You stared in awe at the giant inflated Bart in the Macy's Thanksgiving parade!

You bought the Bart T-shirts! You played the Bart video games! You even danced the Bartman!

Bart books!

Bart badges!

Bart bendables!

Bart beverages!

Is there no end to the mass craving for Simpsons-related foolishness???

Yo, kids, and welcome to the first big, spiffy ish of Simpsons Comics and Stories!

Let me explain something. See, I never really expected to get anywhere as a cartoonist. Not professionally, anyway. I've been drawing like crazy since I was a little geek, but my pictures always looked crude and awkward, and I was torn between the urge to create great art and the urge to destroy the horrible scrawls that stared back at me.

So this whole Simpsons thing is, to use a term from my generation, a mind-blower. I didn't plan on any of this. I was a lousy artist. Over and over I tried to draw Batman, but he always ended up looking like a weird skinny guy with potatoes stuffed throughout his leotard. During my formative years, nobody ever looked over my shoulder and said, "I see promise in you, young man. Keep it up."

Cartoonist? I figured I'd grow up to be a miserable grump pulling a cart in a tire warehouse, making insulting caricatures on the walls of the loading dock when the supervisor wasn't looking.

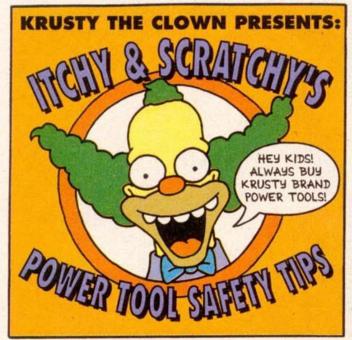
But I was ever so wrong.

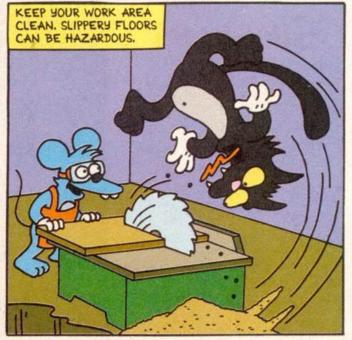
Which brings me to my message: Don't be a fool, stay in school and doodle.

We all hope you enjoy this premiere issue of *Simpsons* Comics and Stories. Let us know what you think.

Your pal,

MATT GROENING

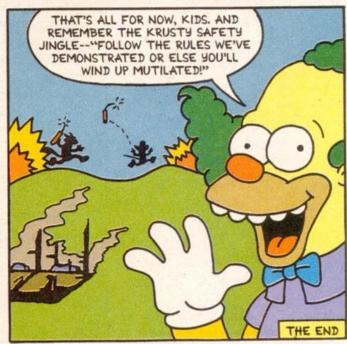












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JUNK MAIL

This collector's edition of Simpsons Comics and Stories is a special publication of Simpsons Illustrated, the official magazine of America's favorite cartoon family. Here's some mail from our regular readers.

Send your mail and pictures to: Junk Mail, Welsh Publishing Group, 300 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10017. Please write on the back of your pictures, "For consideration for publication in Simpsons Illustrated. I agree if you publish my submission it becomes your property," and sign your name. If you don't, we can't use 'em. Thanks!

Dear Editor,

I would like to respond to a letter in the Summer '93 issue: you are sooooo terribly wrong.

The real meaning of life is to eat potato chips and watch *The Simpsons* forever, or until you blow vomitous potato chunks all over yourself and then have a green liquid squirt out of your nose until you go blind from watching too much TV and die from too many bad Simpsons jokes. That is the real meaning of life.

Lenny Marks, Oklahoma City, OK

Dear Simpsons Illustrated,

Awe. All I can say is that I have complete and total awe for the Simpsons. They're the ideal family for the '90s. Only I must say that I think we devoted viewers deserve more Itchy & Scratchy on the show. You got your point across. They are exactly like Tom & Jerry on dope.

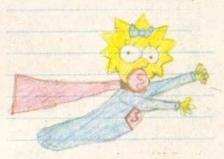


DAM I

Chris Hodges, Summer Shade, KY

They are the highlight of every truly good Simpsons show. Plus, I would get on my knees and pray to you if you'd only print more pullouts. The Krusty pullout from the Nancy Cartwright issue brightens up my bedroom like the light of the sun on a perfect day. If you give me something that good, how can you expect me not to ask for more? Realize that I love this show, magazine, and your creativity. My applause to the crew! Keep up your excellent (and, may I say, slightly deranged?) work!

Alethea White Mechanicsville, VA



Francess Jaen, Sunrise, FL

Dear Simpsons Illustrated,

I think your magazine is awesome. Every one I get, I read six or seven times. My favorite part of your magazine is the "Behind the Scenes." I found out a lot I didn't know about the making of *The Simpsons*.

Melody Smart Batavia, NY

Dear Simpsons Illustrated,

Ever since I got my first Simpsons Illustrated, I haven't taken my eyes off of it. My mom loves to read Simpsons Illustrated, too. My brother looked like Bart when he got a hornet sting on his lip, but Bart doesn't wear glasses.

In the next issue, can you put a Krusty poster in it? Can you put a comic of Radioactive Man in your magazine?

> Matt Innocent Armdale, Nova Scotia

Whoa. We did a Krusty poster in the Summer issue, and Radioactive Man is in this special ish. Is that service or what?

Dear Editor,

On July 22, 1992, I went to a bookstore to get a book. But for some reason I decided to get a magazine instead. So then I went to the magazine section, so then I looked and I couldn't find anything



Jerrod Peterson, Tulsa, OK

good. So I began to walk away until I saw in the very corner was a magazine called Simpsons Illustrated and I've always loved the Simpsons. So then I checked it out and I got it. And I really was in shock because I figured it would be some dumb magazine but whoa was I wrong!!! Your big fan,

David Garcia, Jr. Los Angeles, CA

Dear Editors,

I enjoy your magazine. I think it should have the famous "Radioactive Man" comics in it. We had school magazine sales, and I sold this magazine to MYSELF! I like "Junk Mail." I used the tricks in one issue. They surprised everyone. Also, I took an issue to school and it was a *big* hit! I convinced two people to subscribe, and in the songs part, I had to run off tons of copies for my fellow classmates and friends.

Aubrey Montague Great Bend, KS

The copyright police will be by to confiscate those unauthorized copies, Aubrey.

Dear Simpsons Illustrated,

In your Fall '92 issue, there was a part on page 32 where there was "The Gravity Defying Human Centipede." I tried that one and really messed up! (We did it in my class.) We all fell down! I fell down and almost sprained my ankle. Oh, well.

Lesley Wolf Syracuse, NY

Hello,

Will the Simpsons ever change their clothes?

Richard Troiano Winthrop, MA

They change their clothes every day, Richard—they just have a bunch of identical outfits.

Dear Editor,

I really believed that "So You Are Wanting To Start A Small Business!" in the July '92 issue was real until I read the top of the page. Why do you put in advertisements for other magazines instead of putting more pages for your magazine? I like when you do interviews.

They're interesting and you find out more about the character. The magazine is really short. I can read it in only a few minutes. Sorry about all of the complaints.

Natalie Weigl Lorain, OH



Aaron Ortega, Gatesville, TX

Dear Editor,

I am a Brazilian 10-year-old boy and I am studying English. I received three Simpsons Illustrated magazines from an American friend who lives in Texas. That was a good present and I like this magazine so much.

Arthur Guzzo Campinas, Brazil

Dear Matt Groening,

I laugh like crazy when I watch *The* Simpsons. I have a few questions, though.

1. I know your father's name is Homer, your mother's name is Marge, and you have two sisters named Lisa and Maggie, but where did you get Bart's name?

2. I like the show when the fake Michael Jackson comes to Springfield, but why don't you make a show where the *real* Michael Jackson comes to Springfield? He's my favorite real person.

3. I've heard that you do the suck, suck sound on Maggie's pacifier. Is this true?

4. What state is Springfield in?

5. Is Apu from another country, and if so, which one?

6. In the baseball episode, Mr. Burns told Smithers he had 24 hours to get some pro baseballers. But, according to my baseball cards, Darryl Strawberry lives in L.A., CA; Roger Clemens lives in Katy, TX; Ken Griffey, Jr. lives in Renton, WA; and Ozzie Smith lives in St. Louis, MO. So how did Smithers get all across the U.S. of A. in 24 hours?

Jordan Davidson Orangeville, ONT, Canada

1. It's an anagram for "brat."

2. He's refused to come until the new 80,000-seat Springfield Sports Arena is built.

3. No, but Matt does make some of Bart's burping sounds.

4. A state of bewilderment. Thanks for asking.

5. He's from India.

6. He didn't have to go cross-country.

He just got on the phone with their agents.

Dear Simpsons Illustrated,

I absolutely love the Simpsons and your magazine. My question is how long will the Simpsons last? I hope for a long time. I also have a comment about the show. You know how Bart always plays those prank calls on Moe. Well, the day that Bart came to Moe's with Homer and talked to Moe, wouldn't you think Moe would have noticed his voice? Just a thought.

Heidi Hallden Rockford, IL

You might think that if you didn't know how dumb Moe really is, Heidi.

Dear Simpsons Illustrated,

Why does Bart always win at calling prank calls? Why doesn't Moe win?

Mark Winchell Stockton, CA

See the previous letter, Mark.



Kevin Hartford, Leamington, ONT

Dear Smithers,

I would like to know why you are such a butt kisser with Mr. Burns. And how did you ever get the job you have in the first place?

> George Coggins Old Forge, PA

Seems like you answered your own question, George.

Dear Simpsons Illustrated,

When I received the summer '92 issue, I noticed that in Barney's Top 40 there is no number 30. Did you do this on purpose or is it a mistake?

Chris Lehner Hawkesbury, ONT., Canada Barney can't count very well, can he?

Dear Editor,

In the 1992 Summer edition of Simpsons Illustrated, Matt Zimmer from Sudbury, MA, said, "I feel it would be in your best interest to talk to The Simpsons' producers and ask if they



Willam Young, Norcross, GA

could edit out "Damn you" and put in "Curse you" or "Blast it" in its place." I think that is very stupid. That is one of the good and funny things about *The Simpsons*. Like that episode where Ned Flanders thought Homer was swearing too much, that was the whole funny thing about that episode.

I love when they swear because that's the first cartoon I've heard that swears and it's cool.

Also, Matt Zimmer said "People like Dan Castellaneta and Harry Shearer can get away with it because both of them used to be on adult-oriented prime-time programs where language like that is acceptable." I think that Dan Castellaneta and Harry Shearer can do whatever they want and it's none of Matt Zimmer's business!

> Brock Wilks Pocatello, ID

Dear Editors.

I've heard that George Bush said that the Waltons are better than the Simpsons. I think he needs the broccoli shoved down his throat. The Simpsons are better than the Waltons.

Let Bush eat broccoli! And the Simpsons stay popular forever!

Wayne Tubbs, Crockett, TX

Well, we've stayed popular longer than he did, anyway.



Betty Peng, Anaheim, CA